

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 7

July 2021

THOUGHTS FROM LELAND . . .

One of my favorite passages from the Bible is Jeremiah 29:11-13. These have become life verses for me:

"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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

As I look back over my life, I can see how many times the truth and promise of these verses were at work in my life. During recent challenges with some health issues, I once again was reminded of these verses and I find great hope and strength in them.

I believe we can also apply the message and promise of these verses to our Association. During this time of transition as our Associational Missionary Search Team diligently goes about the task of seeking and finding the next Associational Missionary for GCCBA, we can be sure that:

- God already knows His plans for GCCBA.
- He has plans to benefit us and give us hope and a future.
- We must pray and seek God with all of our heart, and He will listen.

I encourage all of us to do these things faithfully and to daily pray for our Search Team.

The Associational Missionary Search Team has sent the following announcement about their search to multiple sources:

The **Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association** is seeking a fulltime Associational Missionary. Those interested must sense a call by God to Associational Missions and have a degree from an accredited seminary/divinity school with a minimum of five years' experience in vocational ministry. Prior experience in Associational missions is preferred. Those considered will demonstrate a desire to work with our 84 churches and their leaders by providing a vision for uniting congregations in effective missions and ministry; work with the Associational staff to carry out the ministry of the Association; and provide care and compassion to the leaders in the churches and the Association. Please send your resume to searchteam@gccba.org, or Associational Missionary Search Team, Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, 1175 Wyke Road, Shelby, NC 28150. All resumes must be received by July 31, 2021.

You are invited to submit resumes of candidates you believe fit the above criteria. The Search Team will receive resumes through July and begin looking through them in August. It has been my joy to get to know them and work with them in the beginning stages and to sense their commitment to prayerfully serve together in this search to honor God and do what is best for the Association.

Joyfully serving with you!
 Leland Kerr, Interim Associational Missionary

Assistance Office:
 704-481-9119

Counseling Center:
 704-472-1437

Thoughts from our Staff.....

*There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens
Ecclesiastes 3:1*

The Bible says there is a time for everything, everything really? That's a big word right there! What is not included in everything?... Everything means there's a time to think and a time for action. Recently, I have learned that if we don't move from the thinking time to the doing time, God will make His plan happen without us. Over the last couple of years, we, as a GCCBA staff and leadership team, have been talking about how we can make our community ministries outreach more effective in sharing Christ's love. We want this ministry to make a difference in people's eternal life, not just take care of an immediate need. As we thought and prayed about this, we sensed that parts of this ministry needed to be moved into the local church, that way the church can develop relationships and continue ministering long past handing out food or clothes. As we talked through what this would look like, things moved slowly. Then COVID hit and all plans stopped. But, here comes the God part of the story. During the COVID crisis, several of our churches started food pantries and other assistance ministries, so they could have an avenue to help people in their community. See, God knew the time had come for churches in our area to share God's love by meeting needs and while we thought it was not a good time to make new plans, God already had the plan in motion.

I tell you all this to say that I am so excited at what God is doing in the area of our assistance ministry. We have made several big changes as we look forward to how God is going to allow us (meaning every one of our churches) to minister in new ways. These changes include closing our clothing room, moving the food pantry and the assistance office upstairs, and finding more ways to resource our churches for ministry. If you have questions about these changes or have ideas or suggestions for improvement, please call me. I would love to discuss it with you!

One exciting part of moving the assistance office upstairs is that the bottom part of our building is now going to be available for churches and community groups to use. We will be doing small improvements on the area so that it will be better for those who may want to use it. If your church or a community group is interested in using our building, please call me to discuss it!

Katie

It's Not the End...Yet!

"See that no one deceives you, because many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ', and deceiving many. But, when you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be troubled, because it is necessary that it happens like this, but it is not the end." Mark 13:5-7

The first day of summer starts with a long day of 15 hours of light and just a few hours of darkness. The very beginning of summer is intense in many places in the world because the heat waves evaporate water sources, which causes plants to suffer and die. Animals flee in search of cool places with water. Crops are lost. The world suffers great shocks. There are great storms and great floods that result in the loss of homes and companies. Strong hurricane winds destroy large areas of trees and houses. The natural elements seem chaotic and then there is a calm that leaves sadness, hunger, misery, and destruction. The world is also experiencing many earthquakes that are destructive in Japan, Mexico, Indonesia, Haiti, South America, etc. There are many internal wars, gorilla governments, tyrannies, dictatorships, labor shortages, mass immigration, food shortages, terrorist groups, gangs, organized crime. All these things determine that the words of Christ are being fulfilled step by step. Mark 13:8 says that nation will rise up against nation and kingdom against kingdom. People continue to live in their crimes and sins, oblivious to a whole world happening that is affecting us little by little. But, as Christ said, it is not yet the end. Today, we fight against diseases and we lose friends and close relatives. We must turn to God. We must cry out for forgiveness. We must kneel before the Heavenly Father and ask for His merciful grace and forgiveness. The Word of God invites us to genuine repentance so that we may escape from the wrath to come. Thank you. Blessings. But it's not the end yet.

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

Education and Network Opportunities

Pastors:

Ministers Conference

No Ministers Conference for the month of July or August

KM/Grover Pastors

Fellowship will meet at the Carolina Crossing Restaurant Restaurant on Thursday, July 1st, at 8:30am.

Lattimore Pastors

Fellowship will meet at the Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday, July 8th, at 8:30am.



Reminder of Meetings in August.

Enlistment Team Meeting,
August 17 at 11:45am

**Leadership and Business
Affairs Teams-** August 24 at
11:45am



Please pray for Association churches and pastors for July:

Lawndale David Rabb (Interim)

Lily Memorial Aubrey Folk

Living Hope

Macedonia Michael Horne

Mt. Sinai Tim Trexler

Mulls Memorial Jimmy Black

New Bethel Carson Putnam

New Camp Creek Tim Ledford (Interim)

New Covenant Marvin Austin



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

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

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

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

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

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

Saturday – Rev. Michael Moore, Pastor, City of God 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)

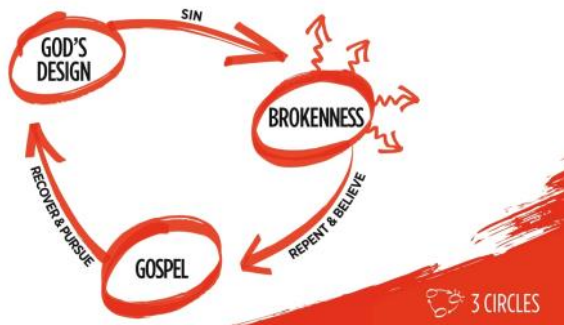
Missions Opportunities

Shelby Mission Camp – Urgent Repair Grant

The Shelby Mission Camp, a ministry of Baptists on Missions, has been awarded an Urgent Repair Program Grant for Cleveland County. The grant is provided by the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency in the form of a loan to homeowners for home repairs and modifications. The loan is written off yearly if the homeowner remains in the home. Qualifications for the loan are based on income, special needs, age and handicap status. Home ownership is required along with residing in the home. The home must be located in Cleveland County. Repairs may include wheelchair ramps, flooring repairs, roofing, doors, windows and more. Applications will begin on July 1st and will continue until all funds are dispersed. For more information or to apply please contact David or Janet Brown at 704 487-5599. If no answer, please leave a message and your call will be returned in a timely manner. Application by appointment only and proof of income and home ownership is required. This is an opportunity for our churches and individuals to become involved in the work of the Shelby Mission Camp as we reach out in the community helping those in need. Please prayerfully consider helping with the opportunity to share the love of Christ through construction ministry.

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. In the coming weeks 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.



July is a big vacation month! Share Jesus while on vacation!

Wanted

-Bibles (all kinds in any condition); Christian Literature (Sunday School, church training, tracts, devotionals, magazines from Christian publishers, 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.

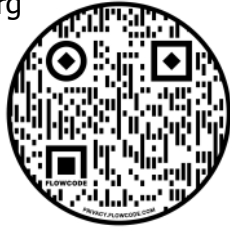
Please do not send: RA, GA, Acteens, & Mission Friends material; No Mission Mosaics, Mature Living, Guide Posts, & Angels on Earth magazines; No cassette or VHS tapes.

Missions Opportunities

Friday Feed The Hungry 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

Friday Lunch Sign up



Block Party Trailer



The schedule for the trailer fills up fast for the 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.

Summer Missionary

Sarah Spencer, our summer missionary, has been doing a wonderful job helping us in our office. She also has plans to help several of our churches with Bible School. If you are in need of her help, please contact her at the office or email her a summerworker@gccba.org

Cleveland County Fair

As you may have seen, the Cleveland County Fair will be open again this year from September 30th-October 9th. In 2019, we expanded our ministry efforts to the fair workers and it was well received. We had big plans for things we could do in 2020 but of course those were cancelled. I know the timeline is short but we would still like to plan some ministry opportunities for this year. What we will be able to do depends on how many of you are interested in participating. It will include things like serving a meal and preparing food bags, but there are other ideas we have if we have enough interest. Please pray about this opportunity and reach out to me soon if your church is interested in participating in some way.



GCCBA Website

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

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **May 2021**

Food	7
Medicine	2
Power	18
Clothes	5
Dental	2
Counseling	36
Total Assisted Units:	70

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 July

Bethel:

Tim Sims, 17 years

Fallston:

David Blanton, 13 years

Immanuel:

Ted Easter, 20 years

Kings Mountain:

Tim Whitesides, 7 years

Mount Sinai:

Tim Trexler, 21 years

Ross Grove:

Marcus McGill, 5 years



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

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

Pray for these couples on their special day in July:

KM - Tim & Andrea Whitesides - 18th
KM 1st - Bro Chip and Martha Sloan — 31st

Happy Anniversary

Sympathy To.....

Sympathy is extended to the family of Rev. Richard E. Plyler who passed away on April 2, 2021. He pastored 31 years at Patterson Grove Baptist Church in Kings Mountain, North Carolina before retiring. Rev. Plyler served on numerous GCCBA committees during his years of service. He was a member of First Baptist Church, Shelby, NC. Please keep Mary Elizabeth and family in your prayers.

We express sympathy to Rev. Keith Dixon and his family in the death of his father, Hoyle Dixon, on May 13, 2021. Keith is the former Director of Missions for GCCBA and the former Pastor of Flint Hill Baptist Church.

We express sympathy to Rev. Lawton Neely and his family in the death of his wife, Dawn Neely, on May 29, 2021. Lawton is the former Minister of Music at Bethel Baptist Church. Lawton and Dawn were active leaders and participants in Associational Mission trips while at Bethel.



Office will be closed Monday, July 5, 2021

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

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

update

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. Send resumes to BuffaloBCsearchcommittee@gmail.com

Flint Hill:

Flint Hill Baptist Church is seeking a **Pianist** to play for worship services, choir rehearsals, and other occasions in support of the music ministry of the church.

Church Needs.....

Anyone interested in this position please send a resume electronically to: personnel@flintheillbaptist.org

Flint Hill Baptist Church has a position for a **sign language interpreter** for Sunday Morning Worship services. ASL certification is not required but the individual must be fluent in sign language. Anyone interested in this position please send a resume electronically to: personnel@flintheillbaptist.org

Lattimore:

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.

New Hope:

New Hope Baptist Church, Earl, NC is accepting resumes for either a full-time youth and children's minister or a part-time youth minister and a part-time children's minister. Go to <https://www.newhopepearl.com/careers/> to submit resume.

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 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.

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 résumé and at least two sermon CD/DVD/online link to: 1740 S. Lafayette Street, Shelby, NC 28152.

Zion:

Zion Baptist Church of Shelby, NC is seeking a **full time Minister of Youth and Children**. The primary responsibilities include coordinating and leading weekly discipleship programs, monthly to quarterly ministry events, and numerous mission projects. The minister is expected to encourage the children and youth in their spiritual development by building relationships and ministering to them, their families, and the church family. He/she will partner with the church staff in helping to plan and lead worship, preaching on occasion, and serve in various ministry roles. Applicants can email resumes to searchteam@zbcshelby.org A job description can be found at zbcshelby.org

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Shelby, NC 28150

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THE BEACON

STAFF, PHONE EXTENSIONS & EMAIL

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Leland Kerr
leland@gccba.org

Missions & Ministry Team Leader:

Katie Harris
katie@gccba.org

Hispanic Missionary:

Jose Espinal
jose.espinal231@gmail.com

Office Administrator:

Nicole Mosley
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!



@gccbashelby



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@gccba_nc



vimeo.com/gccba