

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 12

December 2021

THOUGHTS FROM LELAND . . .

It is hard to believe how quickly this year is passing. When I was a child, I would overhear my grandparents talking about how quickly time passed. As a child I couldn't understand this because the time between birthdays and Christmas seemed like an eternity. I now know what they meant! After all, it's time to decorate for Christmas! Have you started your Christmas shopping?

Some say the Christmas season starts right after Halloween. Believe me, my favorite holiday and season is Christmas, and I thoroughly enjoy these, but I want to remind us that we must not ignore Thanksgiving. What an opportunity it provides for us to truly reflect on the things and people we are thankful for and express our thanksgiving.

I think it is important for us to understand the history behind our celebrations, especially as Thanksgiving approaches.

In 1789, following a proclamation issued by President George Washington, America celebrated its first day of Thanksgiving to God under its new Constitution. That same year, the Protestant Episcopal Church, of which President Washington was a member, announced that the first Thursday in November would become its regular day for giving thanks, "unless another day be appointed by the civil authorities." Yet, despite these early national proclamations, official Thanksgiving observances usually occurred only at the state level.

Much of the credit for the adoption of a later ANNUAL national Thanksgiving Day may be attributed to Mrs. Sarah Joseph Hale, the editor of *Godey's Lady's Book*. For thirty years, she promoted the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day, contacting President after President until President Abraham Lincoln responded in 1863 by setting aside the last Thursday of November as a national Day of Thanksgiving. Over the next seventy-five years, Presidents followed Lincoln's precedent, annually declaring a national Thanksgiving Day. Then, in 1941, Congress *permanently* established the fourth Thursday of each November as a national holiday.

Lincoln's original 1863 Thanksgiving Proclamation came—spiritually speaking—at a pivotal point in his life. During the first week of July of that year, the Battle of Gettysburg

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Counseling Center:
704-472-1437

Thoughts from our Staff.....

occurred, resulting in the loss of some 60,000 American lives. Four months later in November, Lincoln delivered his famous "Gettysburg Address." It was while Lincoln was walking among the thousands of graves there at Gettysburg that he committed his life to Christ. As he explained to a friend:

When I left Springfield [to assume the Presidency], I asked the people to pray for me. I was not a Christian. When I buried my son, the severest trial of my life, I was not a Christian. But when I went to Gettysburg and saw the graves of thousands of our soldiers, I then and there consecrated myself to Christ.

I remember a chorus I have heard all my life and sung so many times:

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul

Thank you, Lord, for making me whole

Thank you, Lord, for giving to me

Thy great salvation so rich and free

May each of us be more mindful of who and what we are thankful for.

It has been my joy and privilege to serve as your Interim Associational Missionary for this past year. I jokingly say that you have given me the opportunity to get it right this second time! Please continue to pray for our Associational Missionary Search Team as they move closer to recommending a candidate for this position.

Thankful for you and joyfully serving with you,

Leland Kerr

Interim Associational Missionary

During every Thanksgiving and Christmas season it's hard not to get overwhelmed. There's parties to attend, musicals to go to, parades to watch, presents to be bought and wrapped, decorating and cooking to be done. All of this on top of regular life duties. All of these things are meant to help us get into the holiday spirit and guide us to fellowship with friends and family. But often they also lead us to not focus on the meaning of the season and that's to celebrate Jesus' birth. Have you ever thought about how you can use the holiday season as a time to be on mission and share about Christ? Some ways you could do this may be by inviting a lost friend to share in a holiday meal, go on a short term mission trip during time off from work and school, have a Christmas party for your neighborhood that focuses on sharing the Gospel, or look for ways to volunteer your time at a local ministry. Yes this time of year is busy but it also is full of great opportunities to share the Gospel.

Serving together,
Katie



Education and Network Opportunities

Please Pray for the Associational Missionary Search Team

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)

Please pray for Association churches and pastors for December:

Westwood Heights David Costner
Zion Matt Storie
Zion Hill Baptist Roger Fuller
Zoar Danny West (INT)



Pastors:

Ministers & Spouses Christmas Dinner

Monday, November 6, 2021
6:30 pm—Place TBD

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship will meet at the Carolina Crossing Restaurant on Thursday, December 2nd, at 8:30am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship will meet at the Snack Shop, Thursday, December 8th, at 8:30am.

Ministers & Spouses Christmas Dinner
Monday, December 6, 2021
at 6:30 pm

We want to encourage you to make your reservation for this time of food, fellowship and inspiration! There is no charge for the meal. This is for our ministers who are active as well as those who are retired. Please call or email Nicole and make your reservation by November 22!



Together,
WE REACH THE NATIONS

2021 GOAL
\$185
million

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Week of Prayer November 28– December 5

Missions Opportunities

Community Thanksgiving Meal at the Shelby Mission Camp

Help us feed senior adults, handicapped individuals & first responders

You, your church, or organization is invited to be part of our Community Thanksgiving meal on Thanksgiving Day, November 25th, 2021. **Due to Covid-19, changes will be made for safety. All delivery teams will sign in upon arriving and line up outside. Orders will be brought out and loaded for you.** We will load delivery orders between 10:40 – 12:00. Drive through pickup will begin at 12:00 and continue until 1:30 or until the food runs out. No inside dining again this year. We need help in a variety of ways. You can be involved by:

- Praying
- Cleanup
- Cooking
- Working on the serving line
- Counseling
- Baking Desserts
- Delivering Meals, Masks and Gloves Required. We can provide if needed.
- Help identify those that need meals
- Financial Support - Last year we served 1100 meals at approximately \$3.75 per meal. Could you or your church help with the cost?

Many have shared how blessed they and their family were through participating in the Thanksgiving meal. Won't you pray about being a part of this important community outreach to seniors, handicapped, needy and first responders? Call Janet or David Brown to sign up to help.



Janet Brown 919-337-2342
jbrown@ncbaptist.org

David Brown 919-422-9990
dbrown@ncbaptist.org

Office 704-487-5599

Utility Assistance

We received a message from Duke Energy that the Share the Warmth Program is changing its name to Share the Light and will only be able to assist customers that have Duke Energy service. Because of this change we will have less funds available to help customers with the City of Shelby, City of Kings Mountain, REMC, and Broad River Electric yet these power companies make up the bulk of people we assist. While we appreciate the funds we receive from Duke to help Duke customers this change is going to cause a great need for donations to help those outside of the Duke Energy service area. If you would like to donate in order to help these other clients you may send your contributions to our office and mark the check for Emergency and Relief. If you have questions, please call Katie at 704-482-3472.

Missions Opportunities



Greatest Treat Festival

We are so thankful for the many churches that came out to help at the Greatest Treat Festival. It was wonderful weather and a great time to serve the Lord alongside

fellow Christians. We estimate we had 2,500-3,000 people in attendance. Put on your calendar October 30th, 2022 for next year's festival.

Christmas Bags

Once again we are providing Christmas bags for the residents at the senior housing complex West Warren Manor. There are 86 seniors that live in these low income units. If you are interested in helping provide a bag, please contact Katie to sign up. You are welcome to donate money for a bag or purchase the items and make your own. Bags will need to be brought in by December 9th.

Friday Feed The Hungry Lunch Program

We are currently working on the 2022 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

Our applications for the Toy Store are being taken this week. Our Toy Store will be open on December 14th & 15th at the Shelby Mission Camp. We are in need of volunteers to help with counseling and shopping during those days. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Katie. The toy donations are due by December 3rd and can be brought in upstairs at our office. A list of needed toys are included in this newsletter. TOYS DUE DECEMBER 9th

Suggestions for toy donations to the GCCBA toy store:

For younger children (2-4): picture books, pull toys, squeeze toys, riding toys, educational toys

For girls (5-7): dolls, tea set, storybooks, board games, puzzles, coloring books/crayons, radios, purses, writing/drawing pads, riding toys, dress up clothes

For boys (5-7): trucks & cars, model car kits, throw games, bats & gloves, storybooks, remote cars, baseballs, board games

For boys & girls (8-10): board games, DVD's, electronic games, books, cd players, bats, gloves, baseballs, football, basketballs

For older boys and girls (11-12):

jewelry, jewelry boxes, makeup, perfume, vanity cases, curling irons, hair dryers, craft kits, jewelry making kits, watches, board games, card games, DVD games, basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, cameras, tackle box, fishing gear, diaries/journals, clips/barrettes, hats, skateboards, photo albums, mp3 players

- Cost of gifts should be around \$15 (up to \$20 for older children)
- Please no toys that promote violence



Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **October 2021**

Food	8
Medicine	1
Power	44
Hotel	1
Other	4
Counseling	35
Total Assisted Units:	93

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 December

Eastside KM:

Ron Caulder, 12 years

New Prospect:

Chris Devine, 5 years

Patterson Grove:

Tim Hendrick - 20 years

Pleasant Grove:

Toby Bird -1 year

Pray for these couples on their special day in December:

Patterson Grove - Tim and Rita - 18th
Mt. Sinai - Tim and Lisa Trexler - 19th

*Happy
Anniversary*

Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.



Boiling Springs ~ Carpenter's Grove ~
Double Springs ~ Emmanuel ~
Lattimore ~ Lawndale ~ Pleasant Hill
~ Sandy Plains ~ Temple ~ Zoar



Thursday,
November
25 for
Thanksgiving

Office will be closed
Thursday, December 23
through Monday, January
3. We will reopen
Tuesday, January 4, 2022!



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.

Block Party Trailer:

Please remember our trailer calendar fills up fast for the Spring and Summer. If you already know your block party and VBS dates, call and reserve the trailer now! This is a wonderful tool that our churches can use to minister to their communities.



update

Church Needs.....

First Baptist Church, Shelby:

Position: **Interim Minister for Kids**

Status: Part-time interim, 20 hours per week or more as needed
Reports To: Lead Pastor

Summary: The Interim Minister for Kids is primarily responsible for engaging our families and their kids-aged children through kids-specific groups, classes, special events and other programs. The purpose of kids ministry at FBC is to help develop disciple-making children who love Jesus and who engage their friends, neighbors, and classmates with the good news of Jesus. Send inquiries to doug@fbcshelby.org

Church Needs.....

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

Lawndale:

Lawndale Baptist Church in Lawndale, NC is seeking a **full-time pastor** to shepherd and grow the church. To provide Spirit led, bible-based preaching and teaching. We support the SBC, NC Baptist State Convention, and our local association (The Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association). If the Spirit is leading you to serve our church, please send resumes to: LBC Pastor Search Team, PO Box 55, Lawndale, NC 28090, Or email: lawndalechurch@gmail.com, Sermon samples are welcome.

Lattimore:

Lattimore Baptist Church of Lattimore, NC is seeking a **part time Family Minister** to lead our youth and children and to develop spiritual opportunities for families. The primary responsibilities includes; visiting families in the community who have youth and children, coordinating and leading weekly discipleship programs, monthly ministry events, and mission projects, and planning activities for families. The LBCFM 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 and serve in various ministry roles. A degree in Religious Studies and 5 years of experience is preferred but not required. The position will require 18-20 hours per week with an annual salary of \$15,600. Applicants can email resumes to pastorbuddy47@yahoo.com or mail to: Lattimore Baptist Church, Attn: LBCFM 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 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.

Music Director

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, Shelby, NC, is seeking an energetic music director responsible for leading the music ministry of the church. This is a part-time, salaried position. Responsibilities include the ability to blend traditional and contemporary music styles into the Sunday morning worship service. This position will involve collaboration with other church wide ministries and staff persons. The music director must have the ability to prepare and teach music to the choir in preparation for worship services and other special events, such as community services, funerals, and other programs. Review of applications will begin immediately and continue until the position is filled. Candidates should submit a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, and contact information for three references. Application materials should be submitted via email to Tracy Arnold at tracygwu@yahoo.com with PRBC Music Director – Your Name in the byline.

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.

If any of these positions have been filled, please let me know at nicole@gccba.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 & EMAIL

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Please visit our website, www.gccbba.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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