

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
 Green Bethel
 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

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July 2022

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Counseling Center:
704-472-1437

"The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³He asked me, 'Son of man, can these bones live?'

I said, 'Sovereign Lord, you alone know.'"

Ezekiel 37:1 – 4

In one of the most often referenced passages of Scripture when exploring the Biblical perspective on church revitalization, Ezekiel is whisked away by God to a "valley of dry bones." It is here that God poses a question to the prophet – "...can these bones live?" In our world today, churches are declining dramatically because of the shifting secularization of our culture, the ongoing impact of the global pandemic and the continuing decay of our society because of sin. It is discouraging for Christians when they arrive for worship on a Sunday morning only to find the sanctuary of their local church is less and less populated. Therefore, the new topic of church revitalization has become a popular subject for Christian pastors and church goers alike, but what does that mean? Church revitalization is a term that has been used for many years. In fact, Thom Rainer, former President of Lifeway, first used it in his writings in June of 2013; but the reality is that Church Revitalization has been around since the apostle John penned the 7 letters to the churches in Revelation and called many of them to a renewed commitment to Christ. Still, the challenge of our day, where churches across our country and in every denomination are in decline isn't when did Church Revitalization start, but rather what is it and what must we do to initiate this process?

By definition, church revitalization is the process by which a church exhibiting decline reverses that pattern and returns to vibrant life. Now, this definition begs several questions – "To what kind of decline are we referring?" "What constitutes vibrant life?" "What is involved in this 'process'?" – along with many more. Still, we see the core principle of renewed spiritual life.

However, before this process can begin, one truth must be accepted and understood. Who can accomplish true revitalization in a church? To quote Ezekiel's words – "Sovereign Lord, you alone know." Regardless of what expert we follow, what book we read or what process we undertake, we must keep in mind the humble truth that the church belongs to God alone

writing continued on next page

Thoughts from our Staff.....

and that only through His Spirit will life return to a declining or dying church.

Therefore, I must first encourage you, regardless of the vibrancy in your church or the lack thereof, God alone is the life giver and the only true revitalizer. If we are going to see a movement renewed life in our churches, it will begin as we all yield to God in prayer and ask Him to lead us corporately and individually toward renewed spiritual health. Begin your journey of prayer today by asking God to open your eyes to where your spiritual life needs to be renewed because every revitalized church begins with a revitalized Christian.

Jason Ballard

The summer months give us many opportunities to minister to our community. Children are out of school, the weather gives us a chance to be outside, summer holidays bring people together, and people have more free time. I encourage you to take this time and evaluate what your church and your family is doing to minister to those around you. Recently, I was reading an article about community outreach that offered several great suggestions for this summer.

Ideas Include:

1. Host a free outdoor movie night
2. Sports in the park- Find a local park, set up with all kinds of fun outdoor sports and games. Have drinks, snacks and a snow cone machine for an extra special touch on hot summer days. Encourage your church members to invite others.
3. Offer A Cool Zone- If the forecast is calling for a dangerously hot day, consider setting up a Cool Zone at your church that is open to the public. Invite people into classrooms, your fellowship hall, or the sanctuary. Provide guests with cool drinks, snacks, extra fans, and some entertainment. Movies, books, board games, playing cards, coloring books for kids.
4. School Service Day- Find out the specific work your area school needs, and recruit as many volunteers as you can for a service day. Work could range from painting, landscaping, organizing, decorating — just be prepared to help with whatever the school asks for.

It's important for our churches to do outreach in the community where they give to those around them not expecting anything in return. This then gives us the opportunity to share Christ's love.

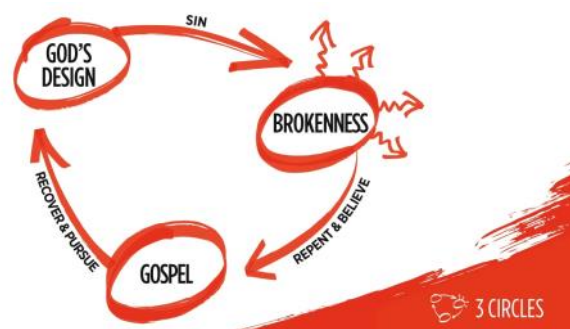
Serving together,
Katie

Ministers Conference No Meeting in July

Monday, August 1, 2022
Lunch 11:30am, Program 12:00pm.

**KM/Grover Pastors
Fellowship** will meet at the
Carolina Crossing
Restaurant on Thursday,
July 7, at 8:30am.

**Lattimore Pastors
Fellowship** will meet at the
Snack Shop, Thursday,
July 21, at 8:30am.



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

Mission and Network Opportunities

**WALKING IN THEIR SHOES
CARING FOR THEIR SOULS**



**HELP US RAISE
\$30,000
FOR 1000 PAIRS OF SHOES**

Our goal is to provide 1000 pairs of shoes before the new school year for BCH foster children.

WHERE YOU CAN GIVE

Go to this link: <https://bit.ly/shoesouls>
or scan the QR Code:



Mail a check to P.O. Box 338
Thomasville, NC 27361

*Brands may vary

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of NORTH CAROLINA



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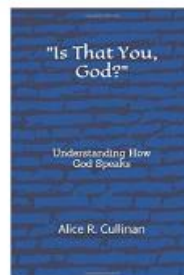
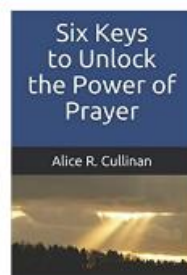
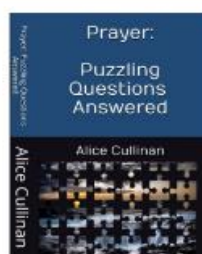
Website/Social Media

In order to see the most up to date information about happenings with the GCCBA, please check our website www.gccba.org or Facebook page. Soon, we hope to post more training videos.

ATTENTION all PASTORS and TEACHERS!

Lamplighters Ministries will give a **free** copy of one of these books to your class or prayer group if you will have a class session to study it for at least four weeks! Every member in the class or group gets a free copy!

Contact us while supplies last. Any of these books can transform a life and a church. We are thankful to be able to make this offer due to the generosity of our donors.



Go to amazon.com to see the table of contents for each book plus a sample of each book. Contact Dr. Cullinan if you are interested in obtaining copies for your class or church prayer group. Allow three weeks for us to order them.

Missions Opportunities



School & Church Partnerships

As school starts back in August, we plan to host prayerwalks 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.

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.



Summer Missionary

We are excited to have 2 Summer Interns with us this year. They are here to help in the office but also to help our churches with VBS, Day Camps, or other ministry opportunities. If you need them to help at your church, please call the office.



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. We are excited that volunteers are now able to stay and help serve the food as we have been able to move the ministry back inside. If your church is interested in bringing 75 bag lunches and/or send volunteers, you can sign up online or contact Katie Harris at 704-482-3472 or katie@gccba.org

Summer is HERE!!!! I'm excited to hear about the churches who are joining together to do VBS for their community this summer! VBS is a GREAT ministry and outreach to the community. Here are some Lifeway Statistics on VBS Nationally.

- 25% of baptisms reported by the SBC comes from VBS
- 10% of people enrolled in VBS are unchurched
- 72,925 people accept Jesus as Lord as Savior
- 2,666 people commit their lives to church-related vocations through VBS
- 56,386 people enroll in Sunday School/Small Group Bible Study as a result of attending VBS
- Report your numbers! Help us keep track of VBS effectiveness, community outreach, etc.

We're praying for VBS in your church and community. Pray for each other! Share resources! Work together!



July 31- Aug 4, 2022

Pleasant Ridge will host our VBS 2022 with Kick off on Sunday morning July 31st and go through Thursday Aug. 4th.

Sunday will be during our regular small group & worship time but the rest of the week will be 6pm-8:30pm.

We are doing Lifeway Spark Studio



Missions Opportunities



Every School Project

Who: Child Evangelism Fellowship Foothills Chapter

What: To raise support/funding to see a Good News Club in every elementary school.

Where: Cleveland and Rutherford Counties

When: Within the 2022-2023 school year

Why: To reach boys and girls with the Gospel of Jesus Christ; to disciple them in the Word of God; and to help establish them in a local church for Christian growth.

How: Seeking churches to adopt and teach a Good News Club 1 day a week through the school year (\$1200 yearly). Seeking non adopting churches and Sunday school classes to partner with CEF Foothills through monthly support. Seeking Christian Businesses to partner with CEF Foothills through monthly support. Seeking any and all Christians to partner with CEF Foothills through monthly support.

If we all individually (churches, Sunday schools classes, businesses and individuals) come together, we can collectively, with God's leading, make a major impact in Cleveland and Rutherford Counties. Can you imagine the children that can be reached with the Gospel as we all work together?

"... The harvest truly is plentiful, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His harvest." Matthew 9: 37-38 Will you consider being a part of reaching the children through the ministry of CEF Foothills by either:

*Adopting a school Good News Club

*Teaching and volunteering in a Good News Club

*Giving monthly to help fund the ministry

*And, of course, praying for the children and CEF Foothills ministry

Below is my contact information, please feel free to contact me with any questions.

James Gibson, Director, 704-473-4315

CEF Foothills, PO Box 797

Boiling Springs, NC 28017

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: **May 2022**

Food	1
Power	33
Rent	1
Other	<u>1</u>
Total Assisted Units:	43

GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS:

**** DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED ****

Spaghetti sauce
spaghetti noodles
peanut butter
cereal
macaroni and cheese
Canned Meat



The pantry always needs everything, but the items listed are what we go through the fastest!

Toiletries: toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, clothes detergent

GCCBA Bulletin Board

Pastors Anniversaries for July

Bethel:
 Tim Sims, 18 years
 Immanuel:
 Ted Easter, 21 years
 Kings Mountain:
 Tim Whitesides, 8 years
 Mount Sinai:
 Tim Trexler, 22 years
 Ross Grove:
 Marcus McGill, 6 years



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.



Pray for these couples on their special day in July:

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



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

Boiling Springs ~ Carpenter's Grove ~ Double Springs ~ Emmanuel ~ Fallston ~ Lattimore ~ Lawndale ~ Patterson Grove ~ Pleasant Hill ~ Pleasant Ridge ~ Poplar Springs ~ Sandy Plains

Wanted

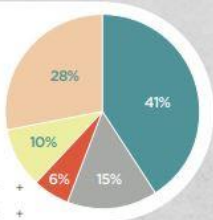
- Bibles (all kinds in any condition); Christian Literature (Sunday School, church training, tracts, devotionals, magazines from Christian publishers, etc.);
- Christian Books of all kinds (hymns, Bible Study, concordances, Bible dictionaries and regular dictionaries, commentaries, children and adult 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, Acteans, & Mission Friends material; No Mission Mosaics, Mature Living, Guide Posts, & Angels on Earth magazines; No cassette or VHS tapes.

ARE YOU FILLED WITH HIS JOY?
 ARE YOU FILLED WITH HIS JOY?
 ARE YOU FILLED WITH HIS JOY?
 ARE YOU FILLED WITH HIS JOY?

YOUR GIFTS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA MISSIONS OFFERING HELP:



- Spread the gospel.
- Relieve suffering.
- Treat the sick.
- Plant new churches.
- Mobilize people in missions.
- Minister during disasters.

Baptists on Mission	\$856,720
Church Planting	\$596,000
Mission Camps	\$313,080
Associational Projects	\$210,000
Mobilization Ministry Project	\$124,200

NCMISSIONSOFFERING.ORG



Church Needs.....



Beaver Dam Baptist Church:

Permanent part-time Music Director

Plan, organize, and manage all aspects of music worship. Assume responsibilities for planning special music such as cantatas and children/youth performances. Ability to lead traditional, blended, and contemporary music. Contact Danny Hipp at 704-473-0927 or danhip@yahoo.com.

Camps Creek Baptist

Part-time Youth and Children's minister We are a loving community based church who is founded in God's Word, Christ centered, and desires to share the gospel with others. We are looking for someone who is solid in their faith and grounded in the Bible. This person will minister to and direct the ministries of youth, children, and their families. Responsibilities include planning, directing, conducting, and developing these ministries for the spiritual growth and discipleship of the youth and children. You need to have good communication skills, the ability to work well with staff and volunteers, and display a love for students with a desire to disciple them in God's Word. If God has lead you more toward youth or children ministry, please know that we are open to splitting this into 2 part time positions. Please send resumes c/o Personnel Committee to camps creek@yahoo.com or 2323 Camp Creek Church Road Mooresboro, NC 28114 For additional questions (704) 434-2354

Fallston:

Fallston Baptist Church, Fallston, NC is prayerfully seeking a **pastor** with a heart for God's work, a seminary degree, a broad knowledge of the Bible, communication skills easily understood by all ages, a willingness to visit the sick and shut-ins of the church, and a desire to grow the church and spread the gospel in our community. We are a diversified community with a varied socioeconomic membership belonging to both the Southern Baptist Convention and the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association. Deadlines for Resumes: September 1, 2022 Please send Resumes to: Pastor Search Committee, Fallston Baptist Church, PO Box 116, Fallston, NC 28042, Or Email: fbcpastorsearch22@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. 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.

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.

Mount Sinai:

Mount Sinai Baptist Church of the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association is prayerfully seeking a **part-time Media Team Leader**. The media team leader will be responsible for the overall media programs of the church, working with the staff and the media team for an

effective ministry. Successful candidate should be self-motivated with strong typing, proofreading, organization, leadership and communication skills. Please send resume to: Mount Sinai Baptist Church, Attn. Search Committee, 1227 Mt. Sinai Church Rd. Shelby, NC 28152 or email: msbcsoundbooth1@gmail.com

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 **Full Time Associate Pastor/Youth** to serve as the primary support person for the Youth. Responsibilities include serving as the direct support person for the senior pastor, plan and promote Bible study and activities to prompt spiritual growth for the youth, develop programs to enlist and retain the youth, etc. If interested, please email questions or resumes by mail to Patterson Grove Baptist Church, 301 Oak Grove Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 or email personnel@pgbckm.org

Patterson Grove Baptist Church, in Kings Mountain, NC is seeking an **interim pastor** to guide the multi-generational church in discerning God's will and vision for the future while building on the church's spiritual markers of the past. This visionary shepherd will stand grounded in prayer and God's Word to equip the church for vibrant worship, sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ, and missional mindedness. This pastor will be able to navigate the interim period with awareness, perseverance, and a servant heart to bring change and to prepare the fellowship of believers to advertise God, make disciples, and bless the community with their next senior pastor. Please prayerfully submit resumes or any questions by email to InterimSearch@pgbckm.org by June 1, 2022.

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

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.

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

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THE BEACON

STAFF & EMAIL

Associational Missionary:
Jason Ballard
jason@gccbba.org

Missions & Ministry Team Leader:
Katie Harris
katie@gccbba.org

Office Administrator:
Nicole Mosley
nicole@gccbba.org

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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