

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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September 2023

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Counseling Center:
704-472-1437

'Recently I went to the doctor to have a yearly wellness physical. He checked my blood pressure. He checked my vision and hearing. He checked my height and weight (only to find I may have the latter in abundance). He even had me give blood to check all the things we can't see on the outside. However, all these measurements are only indicators of the problems that may be beneath the surface or the practices that are going to cause me problems in the future.

If my blood pressure is high, I may need to adjust my diet and my activity level, and this also warns me that my future health may be in jeopardy as well since high blood pressure can lead to more damaging health conditions. Sometimes what we measure may be things we can't avoid like our height (or lack thereof) or our loss of hearing (what?). At other times these measurements like weight and cholesterol all indicate my lack of discipline in my health.

Christians and churches are no different.

As individuals who are seeking to follow Jesus Christ, we are weekly challenged from our pulpits to examine our spiritual health. No, our pastors may not measure our individual levels of discipleship or question the personal underlying sin in each of our lives that can cause our spiritual weakness, but they do call each of us to that level of examination. Just as our personal physician can only offer instruction for our better living, we must still choose to apply the pastors call of repentance, forgiveness and obedience to mature our faith.

But, here's the question I have for you – Where would we be without that examination?

Likewise, our churches function like living beings. They have needs for sustenance. They have needs for success. They have emotional, physical, and yes, spiritual needs. But how often do we take our church to the doctor? How often do we allow someone the objective examination of the outward indicators of their inward health?

On Tuesday, September 12th, at 6:30 PM at Poplar Springs Baptist Church, the GCCBA will hold our semiannual Deacon and Leadership training event, this year entitled **The Church Health Checkup**. At that time, we will welcome Terry Long, senior consultant for Church Revitalization from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, along with members of his team.

Thoughts from our Staff

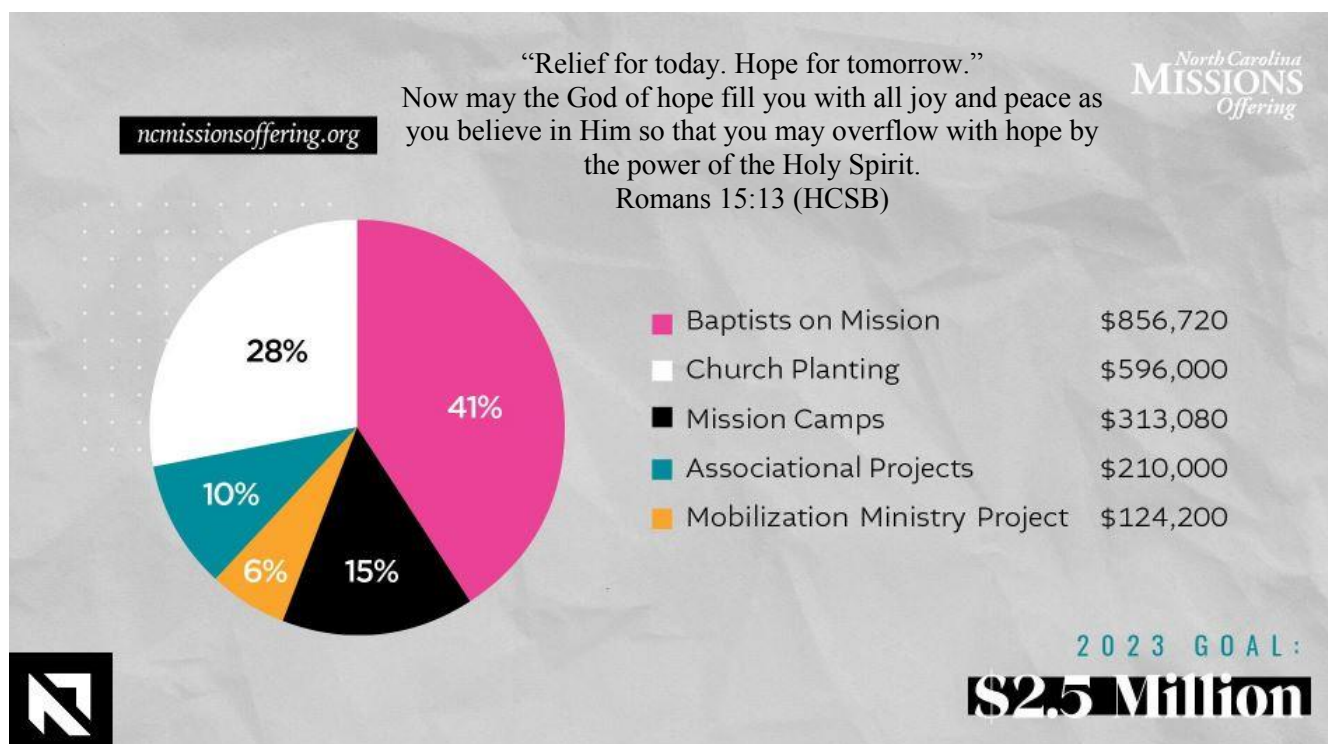
For every church who registers even one deacon and/or pastor (by September 5th) to attend this event, the GCCBA will prepare an in-depth report on the church's current indicators of health and strength. In addition, a church health assessment from our partners at the state convention will be given for every registrant.

However! No one would call a doctor "good," if he pointed out your pain and offered you no treatment. These two reports will then be at your disposal on the night of our event as Terry and his team lead us to engage in a next step process for your church to seek out health over the next 1, 3, and 5 years. I hope you can join us for an insightful evening that will help you prepare the way for your church's future.

Jason Ballard

This past weekend I was reminded of the great impact churches can have on their community as I looked through pictures from area back to school prayer walks. It's amazing how something as simple as people coming together in a specific location to pray can have on a school and community. I am thankful for each church that has adopted a school for this coming school year. I know from personal experience how much a simple snack or a thank you note can encourage a teacher. I encourage you to look for ways to come alongside a school in your area and encourage and support the teachers and students. I look forward to working with the GCCBA churches through some exciting mission opportunities this fall. Please take time to look through this newsletter and find ways you can be involved.

~ Serving Together,
Katie



Education and Network Opportunities

Ministers Conference

Monday, September 11, 2023
Lunch 11:30am, Program 12:00pm.
Pastors' Health Check-up with
Dr. Sandy Marks

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Carolina Crossing Restaurant on Thursday,
September 7, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Snack Shop, Thursday,
September 21, at 8:30 am.

Hands on Missions Fundraiser

The Collingsworth Family
Saturday, September 23, 2023
Malcolm Brown Auditorium
Shelby High School
Doors open @ 6PM
Concert @ 7 PM

For More Information
www.handsonmissions.org

Deacon Training

September 12th, 2023 6:30 pm
Poplar Springs Baptist Church
Topic: Church Health Check Up
Guest Speaker: Terry Long, Senior
Consultant for NC Baptist
Revitalization Team
Please RSVP by September 5th



Register by scanning this QR Code

Building Update

We have moved all offices
downstairs in preparation for the
renovations to the upstairs. If you are
coming to the office please drive
around back to park and enter the
building.



save the date

2024 Minister's & Spouses Pastors Retreat

Save the Date: February 16th-18th, 2024
Ridgecrest Retreat Center
Guest Speaker: Dr. Danny Akin, President
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
More details about registering will be made
available later this summer.

Fall Biannual Meeting

Monday, October 23, 2022
6:00-6:45 pm Meal
6:50 pm—Meeting
Pleasant City Church

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!

Missions Opportunities

North Carolina Missions Offering

NCMO is a special offering received during the month of September that supports the ministries of Baptists on Mission, Church Planting, mission camps, associational projects and mobilization ministry projects. NCMO is your opportunity to be on mission together as God accomplishes many wonderful things through these various ministries. 17.5% of this offering comes back to Cleveland County, to support GCCBA and Shelby Mission Camp.



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.



@gccbashelby



vimeo.com/gccba



@GCCBA



@gccba_nc

SHARING HOPE...CHANGING LIVES

Baptist Children's Homes
of NORTH CAROLINA

NC BAPTISTS

The Every Child Initiative

Here's how your church can get involved

Start praying

Pray that God would reveal to you how your church can be part of ministering to children.

Pray for the 15,000+ children in North Carolina who are in need of a home. Pray that they would know the love of Christ and feel it through the local body of believers.

Invite BCH to share at your church

Find a convenient time for a Baptist Children's Homes staff member to come to your church and share about foster care and adoption. It may be on a Sunday morning, Sunday night or a weeknight -- whatever best fits your church.

Here's why having a representative come is important:

It gives your members an opportunity to interact. They not only learn details about how the foster care and adoption process works, but it allows them to ask questions and hear the need firsthand.

God may move in people's hearts. There are people in our pews that God is already calling to this ministry, but they may not recognize it until the need is shared with them. It gives them, as well as your church as a whole, the opportunity to see how God may be leading.

Contact Dr. Mark Smith @ 828-450-9136 to take your next step.

every
CHILD
foster & adoption ministry

EVERY CHILD UPDATE

NC Foster Children Served: 725
BCH Foster Families: 354

Missions Opportunities

Greatest Treat Festival

Our annual Greatest Treat Festival will be held on Sunday October 29th from 4-6 pm at the Shelby City Park. We will have a planning meeting on August 31st at 6 pm at the GCCBA office. Please join us to learn about all the ways your church can be involved with the Greatest Treat Festival.



Cleveland County Fair Ministry

Once again we plan to do ministry to the fair workers during the Cleveland County Fair. We plan to serve lunch on set up day and will provide food bags to those who come. We will also serve breakfast one morning and will provide toiletry bags. We need groups to donate toiletry bags, food bags, and food for breakfast. If you are interested in helping please let us know.

Mission Opportunity

GCCBA is collecting 1200 laundry detergent pods for the Cleveland County Rescue Mission. Items are due into our office by October 30th.



Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

We still need volunteers to help with our feeding program on the following 2023 dates: September 8th, October 27th, November 11th, November 24th, December 8th, December 22nd, December 29th. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Katie Harris.

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. After your event we would love to know the impact on the community you served so please share your stories with us.



Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: July 2023
 Food 21
 Other 1
 Power 11
 Total Assisted Units: 33

GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS:

**** DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED ****

Spaghetti sauce
 spaghetti noodles
 peanut butter
 jelly
 crackers
 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 September

Mulls Memorial:

Jimmy Black, 6 years

New Hope:

Russ Bradley, 22 years



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

Boiling Springs ~ Carpenter's Grove ~
Double Springs ~ Pleasant Hill ~ Shelby
First ~ Zion



Pray for these couples on their special day in September:

Bethlehem - Steve and Tois Taylor—12th



It is that time of year!! Time for the Annual Church Profile. I have your packets ready to be picked up here at the GCCBA Office or you can simply log on to the website and the forms are ready to be filled out!



September 4
for Labor
Day

Patterson Grove Baptist welcomes Brad Bridges as their Pastor on September 1st!

Pastor Brad Bridges grew up in Kings Mountain, he's a Tar Heel fan, was raised on a cattle farm, and is a sports fanatic. After attending North and West Elementary, Kings Mountain Middle School, Kings Mountain High School, he received his undergrad in music from Davidson College. After Davidson, he completed a 4 year Masters of Theology degree at Dallas Theological Seminary and is nearing the completion of his doctorate. He has served as a Student Pastor, Associate Pastor, Interim Senior Pastor and Senior Pastor in churches in Texas, Uruguay, and Chicago over the past 20 years.

He and his wife **Lindsey** married 19 years ago and have 3 children in elementary and middle school. Lindsey also went to seminary, is about to complete her nursing degree, and has served extensively in ministry to kids and women. Some of Brad and Lindsey's greatest joys are teaching their kids to be disciples of Jesus, family movie nights, anything sports related, serving others, and making Jesus known in preaching and conversation. As a native Mountaineer, Brad LOVES ROs BBQ (as well as Bridges BBQ), hiking the Gateway Trail, visiting the Farmer's Market, and helping the church make a local and global impact.

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.

Church Needs.....

Camps Creek Baptist:

Part-time 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 and their families. Responsibilities include planning, directing, conducting, and developing these ministries for the spiritual growth and discipleship of the youth. 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. 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

Eastside, Shelby:

Eastside Baptist Church of Shelby, NC, is seeking a **full-time Youth Minister**. Preferred qualifications are experience in student ministry, seminary education and ordination. Please send a cover letter and resume to office @eastsidebaptistshelby.org or to Attn Personnel Committee, Eastside Baptist Church 1165 Wyke Rd. Shelby NC 28150. Resumes are being accepted.

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

Lafayette Street Church:

Youth/Children's Minister

Lafayette Street Church in Shelby, N.C. is seeking a Part-time Minister to Youth/Children. We are seeking a person who senses a call from God to be a part of a growing church in building a comprehensive ministry for the spiritual development and discipleship of Youth and Children. You would start out with 6-10 hrs. per week at \$15 per hour. This would include Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights and preparation time. You must pass a background check and obtain a Child-safety Certification, which would be provided by the church. To receive more information about the church and a more detailed job description, contact the church office at 704-487-8333 or send your resume' to office@lafayettestreetchurch.org Applicants can email resumes to: lbsecretary2016@gmail.com or mail to Lattimore Baptist Church, atten: LBCFM Search Committee, PO Box 188, Lattimore, NC 28089

Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **permanent part-time Music Minister**. The candidate should be comfortable leading contemporary and traditional music, working with other musicians and singers, while also assisting fellow staff members and lay leaders in ministry where needed. Experience is preferred. Also having the ability to play multiple instruments and being somewhat savvy with technology and online formats is helpful. If interested, and want more information, please email your resume to: ogbc1022@gmail.com (attn: Pastor Jason and the Worship Ministry Team) or send a hard copy resume to: 1022 Oak Grove Road Kings Mtn., NC 28086.

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:

Position: **Minister to Youth**

Talents Desired: Excellent leadership/shepherding skills; Effective organizational skills; Ability to motivate Middle School/High School aged youth and parents through effective communication, planning, and implementation of ministry ideas; Experience in ministering to and with

Middle School/High School Youth with a heart for understanding their special needs and a desire to include these special groups in the overall ministry of the church. Job Overview: The Minister to Youth will demonstrate a strong commitment to Jesus Christ while developing and implementing a ministry for Middle/High School Youth which enhances their spiritual lives and encourages them to participate in the whole ministry of the church family to worship, work, and enjoy recreation together. Send Resume 198 Pleasant Ridge Church Road Shelby, NC 28152-9022 pleasant.ridge@att.net

Polkville:

Polkville Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time pianist**. Responsibilities include worship service, rehearsals, and additional special services as needed. Interested applicants need to submit a cover letter, resume, and references to Polkville Baptist Church at: P.O. Box 245, Polkville, NC 28136 Or email to: employment@polkvillebaptist.com Please include pianist in subject line.

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.

Sandy Plains:

Sandy Plains Baptist Church is **seeking a Interim or Part-Time Music Minister**. The Music Minister will be commissioned to prayerfully select music and to create an atmosphere of worship. The Minister will also be tasked with coordinating and overseeing all involved in the Music Ministry of the church including the pianist, instrumentalists, and singers. The Music Minister will need to be available for one practice a week (the day and time can be flexible) and the sound check and Worship service on Sunday mornings. The Music Minister will work closely with the Pastor and other staff to implement the vision of the church which is "Loving God and Loving People." Those interested in learning more about the church and this position contact Elisabeth Cothran at elisabethcothran25@gmail.com.

First Baptist Church, Shelby:

FBC Shelby is seeking a **Full-time Children/Youth Pastor**

All questions and/or resumes can be emailed to Eli Wortman at newortman@gmail.com Summary: The Children/Youth Pastor is primarily responsible for engaging our families and their children/youth through small groups, classes, special events and other programs. The purpose of family ministry at FBC is to help develop disciple-making students who love Jesus and who engage their friends, neighbors, and classmates with the good news of Jesus.

Experienced person to prepare nutritionally wholesome food for children and staff in the Child Care Center at First Baptist Church of Shelby, Monday-Friday. Part time or full time. Email childcare3460@fbcshelby.org or call 704-482-3460.

Zion Baptist Church

Zion Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time Minister of Youth**. The primary responsibilities are planning, coordinating, and implementing Bible Study and fellowship activities for Grades 6 - 12. The position is allotted 20 hours per week with attendance required on Sunday and Wednesday evenings. Cover letter and resume may be emailed to secretary@zbcshelby.org (subject: Youth Minister Position) or hard copies may be mailed to: Minister of Youth Committee 525 West Zion Church Road Shelby, NC 28150.

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

Go to our website to see all job listings:

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

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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

Associational Missionary Strategist:
Jason Ballard
jason@gccbba.org

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

Office Administrator:
Nicole Mosley
nicole@gccbba.org

- 1**– Hungry program with Trinity, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 7**– Grover Minister’s Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
- 8**– Hungry program *Volunteers Needed*, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 11**– Minister’s Conference, GCCBA, 11:30 am
- 12**–Business Affairs Team Meeting, GCCBA Office, 11:45 am
Leadership & Deacon Training, Poplar Springs, 6:30 pm
- 14**– Jail Ministry Training, Elizabeth, 7:00 pm
- 15**– Hungry program with Buffalo, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 21**–Lattimore Minister’s Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
- 18**–Hungry program with Boiling Springs, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 29**–Hungry program with Union, Shelby First, 12:30 pm

SEPTEMBER