

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

Volume 65, Issue 12

December 2023

***"The GCCBA exists to build (and rebuild) healthy churches  
 BY  
 uniting congregations in effective missions and ministry!"***

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Though many of us may shudder to think of the gifts we have yet to buy, the decorations we have yet to hang and the Christmas cards we haven't even picked out yet, the truth is Christmas *is* coming and it's going to be a great time of ministry for us all. But the truth is, this time of year can be hard on the people who serve with extra effort in this busy season – not the least of whom are our pastors.

Here at the GCCBA we are getting ready for a great time of ministry. In the coming weeks, the GCCBA will continue our strategy of addressing Pastoral Health by hosting our Pastor's appreciation banquet. Please encourage your pastor to attend. This is a free event for them being held on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 PM at The Simpson Farm and Venue at 121 Thornhill Lane, Shelby, NC. It will be a great time of encouragement and sharing.

In our world today, pastoring is one of the most stressful and challenging careers that anyone can have. In addition to the challenge of preparing sermons and delivering them publicly (keep in mind that public speaking is the number one fear in America just ahead of death), pastors also carry the weight of the burdens of their church family as well. Whether it's an unexpected death, sickness or other tragedy, pastors carry the emotions of those experiences with them when they minister to families. This is why so many pastors suffer from exhaustion, burnout and depression while masking it in the pulpit.

On February 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, the GCCBA will host our second Restore Retreat for pastors and spouses at the Ridgecrest Conference Center. There is a cost of \$380 per couple for this event. As a gift this Christmas to your pastor, would you consider offering to pay for them to get away and address their own mental and spiritual health. That's the only way we are going to treat the epidemic of unhealthy pastors who are taking on more than they can handle.

The GCCBA is committed to building and rebuilding healthy churches, and that starts with building and rebuilding pastors. Won't you join us in the effort to strengthen those who live to strengthen us? Thank you and Merry Christmas!

Jason Ballard

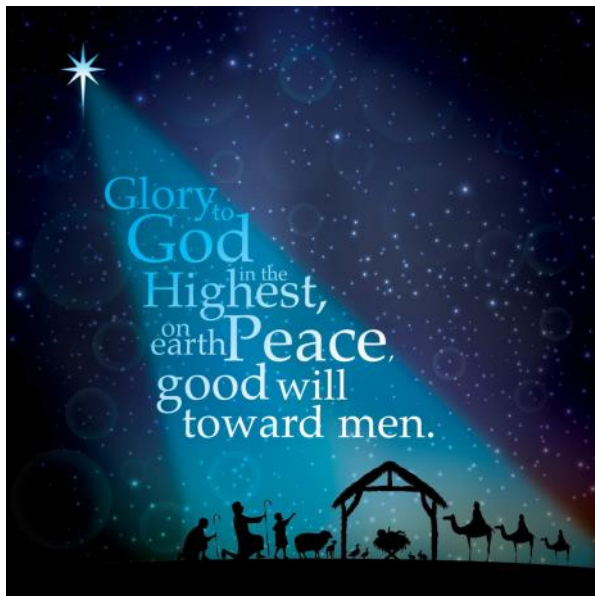
Assistance Office:  
704-481-9119

Counseling Center:  
704-472-1437

## Thoughts from our Staff

It seems like around this time of year I always say the same thing in my article and that is THANK YOU! I know it's the Thanksgiving season so it may not seem that odd to you, but it's also this time every year that we are finishing up our summer and fall outreach and missions, and I am always blown away by how our churches come together to minister in our county, in other parts of the US, and abroad. So once again in this month's article I will say thank you to those who have partnered with us in missions through our Hungary mission trip, the Greatest Treat Festival, our weekly Friday lunch program, stocking our food pantry, collecting laundry pods, donating toys, volunteering your time, etc. This year our Greatest Treat Festival ministered and shared the Gospel with over 2,000 people who attended. We also collected more than seven times over our original goal of laundry pods for the Cleveland County Rescue Mission. I don't want to sound boastful, but I do want to brag about the amazing churches that are a part of the GCCBA. You have seen and continue to see the importance of coming together to love and serve in our community. I look forward to all we will be able to do together in the coming year. Please continue to look out for information regarding the 2024 summer mission trips and other ministry opportunities.

Katie Harris



*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year!*

*"I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now."  
Philippians 1:3-5*

Partners are important. No, they're essential! We're thankful for your partnership in many different ways. Your prayers and financial contributions are important! Thank you for your 2023 contributions

## CHURCH HEALTH CHECK UP PART #2

CONFERENCE LED BY: JASON BALLARD

**MONDAY  
JANUARY 29TH, 2024  
6:30 PM**

at Polkville Baptist Church  
4213 Polkville Rd, Shelby NC

Please RSVP by January 22nd

*This is a follow up to Fall Leadership/Deacon  
Training.*



RSVP:  
704-482-3472  
nicole@gccba.org

# Education and Network Opportunities

## Ministers Conference

Ministers Christmas Fellowship Dinner  
Monday December 4th @ 6:30 pm  
The Simpson Farm & Venue  
121 Thornhill Lane, Shelby  
Please RSVP by November 27th

## KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

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

## Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the  
Snack Shop, Thursday,  
December 16, at 8:30 am.

## Shelby/ Waco Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the  
Shelby Cafe, Thursday,  
December 18, at 8:30 am.

## Upper Cleveland Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the  
Christie's Kitchen, Thursday,  
December 28, at 8:30 am.



## GCCBA Minister's & Spouse Retreat

Ridgecrest Retreat  
Center, February  
16th-18th, 2024  
Sessions led by  
Dr. Danny Aiken,  
President of  
Southeastern  
Seminary, Cost \$380  
per couple, Please  
RSVP to Katie or  
Nicole



Have a  
Blessed &  
Joyous  
Christmas!



# Missions Opportunities

## BALTIMORE MISSION TRIP JUNE 15TH-22 ND

We would love to have you join us on our upcoming Baltimore Mission Trip. More details about cost and ministry opportunities will be available soon.



### 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.



100% of your gifts to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering® enable gospel transformation among the unreached.

Week of Prayer  
December 3-10

[imb.org/lottiemoon](http://imb.org/lottiemoon)



# Missions Opportunities



## Christmas Toy Store

Volunteers are needed to help during the Toy Store on December 12th at the Shelby Mission Camp. We will need volunteers to help pray with and encourage the parents that attend and help pick out and pack up the toys. In order to volunteer, please contact Katie. Toy Donations can be brought to the Shelby Mission Camp on December 11th from 6-8 pm. If you need to bring them at another time, please contact Katie.

## 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-\$20 (up to \$25 for older children)
- Please no toys that promote violence

## Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: October **2023**

Food	16
Other	1
Power	<u>21</u>
Total Assisted Units:	38

## 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 December*

Eastside KM:  
Ron Caulder, 14 years  
New Prospect:  
Chris Devine, 7 years  
Pleasant Grove:  
Toby Bird, 3 years  
Oak View:  
Wayne Brazzell, 5 years



## *Pray for these couples on their special day in December:*

Mt. Sinai – Tim and Lisa Trexler - 19th

*Happy Anniversary*

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

Carpenter's Grove ~ Double Springs ~  
New Camp Creek ~ Pleasant Hill ~  
Shelby First ~ Zion



Office will be closed  
Thursday,  
December 21st  
-Monday,  
January 1st

# MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Christmas

Christmas is the LIGHT that burns eternally. It is a glow that warms the hearts of people wherever the message of "peace on earth to those of good will" is believed.

Christmas is PEACE in a world where people have been alienated from each other by hatred and jealousy.

Christmas is JOY of fellowship, of giving, of sharing of lifting, of caring and of being what Christ wants us to be.

Christmas is FORGIVENESS, the time for fresh beginnings, a time to right the wrongs of yesterday.

Christmas is GIVING to those who cannot give to us. It is visiting the neglected, lifting the fallen, giving hope to the hopeless, assuring victory to the defeated, living the spirit of good will to all humankind.

Christmas is SURRENDER of one's life to Christ in renewed dedication, which makes Christ the Lord of our Lives.

Share Christ the season!

# Church Needs.....

## *Calvary:*

Calvary Baptist Church of Shelby is seeking a part-time Administrative Assistant that will perform general office work under the supervision of the Pastor, Deacons, and the Personnel Committee. The position is 20 hours per week at \$15 an hour. Those interested can email Pastor Rob at robert@visitcalvaryonline.com for a full job description.

## *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.

## *Elizabeth:*

Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby NC is hiring. We are near the Cleveland County Fairgrounds. EBC has traditionally had a long tenured staff and is a strong church. Our pastor has been here over 18 years. Due to two retirements and a vacancy, we are hiring for multiple positions. Please check out our church website for detailed information about our church, the job descriptions, and to apply. Our website is www.elizabethchurch.org

**Minister of Music-** We are currently looking for a Minister of Music to help EBC grow our music ministry. This is a full-time position with benefits. You can find detailed information about this position on our website.

**Childrens Minister-** This is a full-time position with benefits. We currently have two great part time Co-Childrens Ministers. Due to retirement, we are hiring for this position and a part time Children's Ministry Assistant. Currently we have a strong children's ministry that we would like to maintain and grow even more. You can find detailed information about this position on our website.

**Childrens Ministry Assistant-** This is a part time position of 20 hours a week created to assist the Children's Minister in maintaining and growing our current ministry. You can find detailed information about this position on our website.

## *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

## *New Bethel Baptist Church:*

### **Minister of Music Position**

New Bethel Baptist Church (Lawndale, NC) is in search of a Minister of Music who will serve the congregation in a part-time capacity by encouraging spiritual growth of the community through leadership in the gift of music. It will be this minister's responsibility to create and provide leadership for a ministry that contributes to a worshipful environment that

both utilizes and develops the musical gifts of volunteers. In order to best serve the needs of the congregation, this minister will seek to blend traditional styles of music with new and emerging styles of worship. Further, the minister will use her/his musical gifts in vocal and instrumental performance to lead the congregation in worship. In the pursuit of these goals, the minister will work alongside, and under the supervision of, the senior pastor in order to fulfill the mission of the congregation – "Knowing Christ and making Him known". Interested candidates should send a resume or CV, statement of faith, and cover letter as an attached document to nbbclawndale@gmail.com.

## *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

## *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.

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

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.  
1175 Wyke Road  
Shelby, NC 28150

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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 Trinity, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 4**—Minister & Spouse Christmas Dinner, Simpson Venue, 6:30 pm
- 7**— Grover Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
- 8**— Hungry program Pleasant City, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 12**—Toy Store, Shelby Mission Camp
- 14**—Youth ministers breakfast, Ken & Mary's, 8:00 am
- 15**— Hungry program with Buffalo, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 21**—Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
- 21-28**—GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
- 22**—Hungry program *Volunteers Needed*, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 24**—Christmas Eve
- 25**— Merry Christmas
- 29**— Hungry program with Patterson Grove Youth, Shelby First, 12:30 pm
- 31**— New Year's Eve