

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 66, Issue 1

January 2024

The GCCBA exists to build (and rebuild) healthy churches

BY

uniting congregations in effective missions and ministry!

When you go to the doctor, he doesn't just look in your right eye and declare you healthy. In fact, you would call your physician a quack if all he did was hit you on the knee to see if your reflexes were working, and declared you healthy while you were coughing, congested, and running a fever. Measuring your health is more complicated than just one measure or one experience. And yet, we don't seem to feel this way when we are asked about the health of our church. Most often we answer this question with some kind of number-related measurement.

"Our attendance has been over 125 for 3 months – that's healthy to me!"

"We have baptized more people this year than we have the past two years combined, that's healthy to me!"

"Well, our giving is going up, so we must be doing something right! That's healthy to me!"

But sometimes, health doesn't seem to be something we measure so much as it's something we experience.

"Even if we are small, when I come to church and sit with my Sunday school class/ small group/ life group, I just feel welcome and at home. That's healthy to me."

"Even if we are small, our pastor preaches the Bible every Sunday, and that's healthy to me!"

"Even if we are small, we are serving the needs of others in the community, that's healthy to me!"

So, which one is it? It's just more complicated than that.

Thoughts from our Staff

I love that our renewed vision for our association is centered on “building and rebuilding healthy churches. If we aren’t in it together to get healthy and change the world for Jesus, then I’m not sure why an association even exists. That’s why we are committing at the GCCBA to plan and pursue ministry events that will focus on our six key strategies for improving church health.

Pastoral health, Congregational health, Leadership development, Ministry support, Community engagement, and Mission partnership.

That’s why our first ministry event of the new year will be focused on congregational health. In September, the GCCBA held the Church Health Check-up in conjunction with Terry Long of the NC Baptist State Convention. We had such a great response from churches who wanted to see their congregations get healthier that we have scheduled a follow-up event on January 29th, 2024. This will be a follow-up to the Church Health Check-up to continue the conversation and to explore our churches progress in moving toward health.

Even if you couldn’t attend our September check-up, I want you to invite all deacons, leaders and those who want to see their church healthy to join us for this event as we continue to move our churches toward health however that may look for each church. You can sign-up for the Church Health Check-up Part 2 by contacting the office at 704-482-3472 or by emailing the office at nicole@gccba.org.

Thank you for helping your church to get healthy and seeking to serve the Lord.

Jason Ballard

At the time I am writing this we are in the middle of the busy, exciting, Christmas season. There are parties to go to, presents to buy and wrap, lights to see, songs to sing, and the birth of a Savior to celebrate. While this is a fun and exciting time for many, I also realize that due to life circumstances this can also be a hard and sad time for many people. The choir at my church will be singing a song during our cantata called “Somewhere in your Silent Night.” Part of the song includes these words: From heaven's height to manger low, There is no distance the Prince of Peace won't go, “From manger low to Calvary's hill, When your pain runs deep, His love runs deeper still, He has always loved you, child. And He always will, Somewhere in your silent night, Heaven hears the song your broken heart has cried, Hope is here, just lift your head, For love has come to find you, Somewhere in your silent night, Lift your head, Lift your heart, Emmanuel will meet you where you are, He knows your hurt, He knows your name, And you're the very reason that He came.” I hope that if you are experiencing a time of sadness, loneliness, a loss, or sickness as we enter this new year that you remember Jesus is there with you in your silent night.

Katie Harris



Education and Network Opportunities

Ministers Conference

Monday, January 8, 2024
Lunch 11:30am, Program 12:00pm.

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Carolina Crossing Restaurant on Thursday,
January 4, at 8:30 am.

Youth Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Ken and Mary's on Thursday,
January 11, at 8:30 am.

Shelby/ Waco Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Shelby Cafe, Monday,
December 15, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Snack Shop, Thursday,
January 18, at 8:30 am.

Upper Cleveland Pastors Fellowship

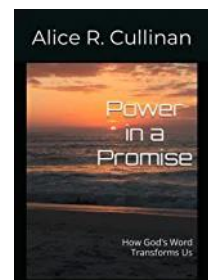
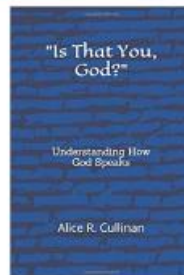
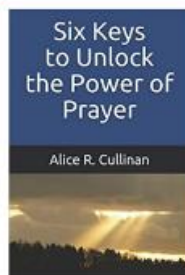
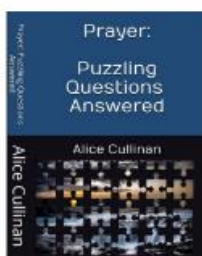
will meet at the
Christie's Kitchen, Thursday,
January 25, at 8:30 am.



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](https://www.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.

Education, Network and Mission Opportunities

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

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

imb.org/lottiemoon

Restore

RESTORE WHO ARE THE TOY OF THE SALVATION
PSALM 51:12

GCCBA Minister's & Spouses Retreat February 16th-18th, 2024

Ridgecrest Conference Center
Black Mountain, North Carolina

Sessions Led by:
Dr. Danny Akin

For More information please contact the GCCBA Office

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



Missions Opportunities

BALTIMORE MISSION TRIP JUNE 15TH-22ND



Christmas Toy Store

Thank you to everyone who helped during our annual Christmas Toy Store. We were able to minister to over 250 children in Cleveland County. I appreciate those who donated their time and gave towards the toy store.

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.



May Joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope, and Love be your treasures in the New Year.

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: November 2023

Food	25
Other	1
Medicine	2
Counseling	37
Power	<u>21</u>
Total Assisted Units:	90

GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS: ** DIAPERS ALWAYS NEEDED **

- Spaghetti sauce
- spaghetti noodles
- peanut butter
- jelly
- crackers
- 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 January:

Buffalo:

Dustin Mace, 4 years

Christopher Road:

Mike Tucker, 7 years

Crestview:

Artie Hubbard, 7 years

Getsemani:

Ramses A. Altamirano, 3 years

Lattimore:

Buddy Morehead, 3 years

Oak Grove:

Jason Allen, 4 years

Sunrise:

Dennis Harmon, 22 years

Trinity:

Mike Frazier, 11 years



Pray for these couples on their special day in January:

Pleasant Ridge—Derek and Sherri Greene— 4th
Peach Street – Bobby and Nancy Callahan-Steen - 9th
City of God—Michael and Sandra Moore— 15th
Sandy Plains—Elisabeth and Ben Cothran— 23rd



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

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



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

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.



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.

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.

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

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.

Go to our website to see all job listings:

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

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



@gccbashelby

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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**— OFFICE CLOSED - Happy New Year!
- 4**— Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
- 8**— Minister's Conference, GCCBA, 11:30 am
- 15**—Shelby/Waco Minister's Fellowship at Shelby Café, 8:30 am
- 18**—Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
Leadership/Business Affairs Meeting, GCCBA, 11:45 am
ProPresenter Conference, GCCBA, 7:00 pm
- 22**—Open House, GCCBA, 4-6 pm
- 25**—Upper Cleveland Minister's Fellowship at Christie's Kitchen, 8:30 am
- 29**—Church Health Check up, Polkville, 6:30 pm

