

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 2

March 2024

What an adventure! As 2024 has begun, the work of leading the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association has begun in earnest for a new group on our Leadership and Business Affairs teams. As you will recall, last year's teams adopted a new vision focus for our association that was birthed out of a year-long revisioning process. Out of that process, the teams recognized that the greatest challenge facing our association is the health of our churches because the health of our association can really only be measured by the health of our churches; therefore, we have amended our mission statement to:

The GCCBA exists to build (and rebuild) healthy churches

BY

uniting congregations in effective missions and ministry!

The GCCBA will seek to accomplish this by assisting our churches with programs, events and ministry that supports each of the following six areas:

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

In 2024, we have already intentionally addressed two of these areas. On January 29th, we held our Church Health Check-Up, part 2 in order to address congregational health. With over 70 in attendance, deacons and leaders worked together to discover and define the unique mission God has given their church. Then on February 16th – 18th, the GCCBA held our 2nd annual Restore Retreat for pastors and their spouses at Ridgecrest. This event targets our focus area of pastoral health and was an outstanding time with over 75 in attendance there as well.

As we look ahead to the spring, we will continue our goal of bringing meaningful ministry to uplift and assist our churches in building a healthy culture. Our next focus will be in leadership development when we host our spring deacon training at Patterson Grove Baptist Church on April 8th. For the second year in a row, we will have Dr. Jeff Iorg of Gateway Seminary in California with us as he leads us through his book, *Leading Major Change in Ministry*. With Dr. Iorg's experience leading change in churches, conventions and now in a seminary, we are privileged to have him with us to lead us through leading change in our churches from an unhealthy culture to a healthy one.

Thoughts from our Staff

In addition, we are continuing to develop our focus of Mission Partnerships by developing a new partnership in Baltimore, Maryland. This partnership will focus on connecting our churches to church planters in one of our largest cities in the Eastern US. With churches closing their doors every day in Baltimore, church planters and pastors alike are taking a stand to be light in a dark part of our world. The GCCBA is leading our churches to connect with these church planters and pastors by supporting their efforts to minister in urban, suburban and small community contexts. If you or your church are interested in being a part of this summer's mission trips to Baltimore on June 15th – 22nd or July 28th – August 3rd, contact Katie in our office.

It is an exciting time to be a part of the GCCBA! Join us as we join Christ in His work!

Jason Ballard



The poster features a background image of a church interior with wooden pews and a large window. The title 'SPRING DEACON & CHURCH LEADERSHIP' is in large, bold, black capital letters, with 'Training' in a brown script font below it. To the right is a black silhouette of a church with a cross on top, and below it are several small black crosses. A brown wavy banner across the middle contains the text: 'Topic: Leading your Church Through Change', 'Guest speaker: DR. JEFF IORG', and 'PRESIDENT GATEWAY SEMINARY'. Below the banner is the GCCBA logo. At the bottom, the location 'Patterson Grove Baptist 301 Oak Grove Rd Kings Mountain NC 28086' is listed, followed by the date 'APRIL | 8th | 2024' and time '6:30 pm'. The RSVP information 'Please RSVP to Katie or Nicole by April 1st. 704-482-3472 or nicole@gccbba.org' is at the very bottom, accompanied by a small cluster of black crosses on the left and a grid pattern on the right.

SPRING DEACON & CHURCH LEADERSHIP
Training

Topic:
Leading your Church Through Change

Guest speaker:
DR. JEFF IORG
PRESIDENT GATEWAY SEMINARY

GCCBA

Patterson Grove Baptist 301 Oak Grove Rd
Kings Mountain NC 28086

APRIL | 8th | 2024
6:30 pm

Please RSVP to Katie or Nicole by April 1st.
704-482-3472 or nicole@gccbba.org

Education and Network Opportunities



We are very excited that GCCBA is partnering with Connect Camps and our churches to bring a Connect Camp to Shelby June 3rd-7th. We are so excited about having this camp in Shelby to help churches connect with children and youth in their community. Your church will be able to participate in many different ways,

some of which may be providing volunteers, feeding the Camp Staff, serving on the leadership team, and helping provide scholarships for children in your church community. We will provide more details about this in the coming weeks but please begin sharing this information and praying now about how your church can be involved in Connect Camp!

Announcing . . .

The 2024 GCCBA Senior Adult Music Day

Thursday, April 18
9:00 AM-1:00 PM

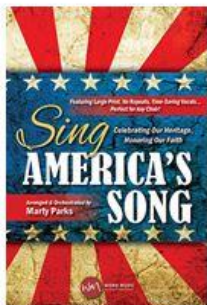
Westwood Heights Baptist Church
650 Dellinger Rd
Shelby, NC 28152

Cost: \$8 per person for the meal. Please register by April 8 by submitting your money and registration sheet to the GCCBA office.

Make checks payable to the GCCBA.

Senior Adult Public Presentation

Sunday, April 21
Boiling Springs Baptist Church



Ministers Conference

Monday, March 4, 2024
Lunch 11:30am, Program 12:00pm.

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

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

Youth Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Ken and Mary's on Thursday,
March 14, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

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

Upper Cleveland Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Christie's Kitchen, Thursday,
March 26, at 8:30 am.



The **Associational Bible Drill** will be on Sunday, March 17 at Place TBD at 3:00 pm!



**LIFT UP THE WORD
LIGHT UP THE WORLD**
2 SAMUEL 22:29-31
THE 73rd ANNUAL NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER
THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



Mission Opportunities



BATTLE OF THE CHURCHES

RUN/WALK FOR A LOCAL CAUSE!

SATURDAY, APRIL 6 @10AM

Hanna Park • 1655 McBrayer-Springs Road • Shelby, NC 28150

\$20 PER PERSON

FOR REGISTRATION &
MORE INFORMATION



PRESENTED BY



What can your church give to offer one night of hope?



We want to challenge our churches to give one night of hope to someone on the streets of Cleveland County by giving to support the Cleveland County Rescue Mission.

Our goal is to give one full year to CCRM.

Every \$28 donated for CCRM to the GCCBA will be counted as one night of hope for someone on the street. How many nights of hope will your church give to those in need?

The Battle of the Churches 5K Run is an exhilarating and community-oriented event that combines elements of friendly competition, fitness, and a strong sense of church spirit. Participants from various churches come together to engage in a spirited race that not only promotes physical well-being but also fosters a sense of unity and camaraderie among the different congregations. The event places a significant emphasis on church spirit, recognizing it as a fundamental aspect of the competition. Each participating church is awarded a maximum of 10 points for their spirit, which includes factors such as enthusiasm, creativity in team attire, and overall representation of their church's values and identity. In addition to church spirit, the competition includes a points system based on the average time of participants from each church. The churches are ranked based on their finishing times, with the top three finishers receiving points for their respective churches. The point distribution for the top finishers is as follows: 1st place earns 20 points, 2nd place earns 10 points, and 3rd place earns 5 points. Furthermore, each church earns 1 point per participant, encouraging widespread involvement and support. This emphasizes the inclusive nature of the event, as churches are not only competing for speed but also for overall representation and participation. The Battle of the Churches 5K Run goes beyond a mere athletic competition; it serves as a platform for churches to come together, celebrate their shared values, and build stronger connections within the community. The combination of fitness, friendly competition, and church spirit creates an uplifting and memorable experience for all participants, fostering a sense of unity that extends beyond the race itself.



March 3-10, 2024.

The Week of Prayer is annually observed by SBC churches to specifically pray for missionaries on the field, the needs of their ministries and the needs of their families.

Missions Opportunities



Save the Date:

2nd Annual Church Without Walls
May 17th-19th
More information will be available
soon

Baltimore Mission Trip June 15th-22nd

We will hold an informational meeting on March 5th at 6 pm about our upcoming Baltimore Mission Trip. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please make plans to attend this meeting. If you have questions, please contact Jason or Katie. The meeting will be held in the upstairs conference room at the Association Office.

If your church didn't exist, would your community notice?

ServeNC is an opportunity for every NC Baptist church to
love its community in Jesus' name through service projects.

Whether it's painting a school, cleaning up a yard, serving meals to those in need or building a wheelchair ramp, your church knows the specific needs that exist in your community and can choose the best project to make a difference through ServeNC.

Commit your church to one week of being on mission together
and display the gospel to those in need,
August 3-10, 2024.

The Food Roundup for the Baptist Children's Homes!

All Food collected in CLEVELAND COUNTY WILL STAY IN CLEVELAND COUNTY!! We now have 5 homes in our county. Let's support them BIG this year. Please bring food and gift cards to the GCCBA Office by April 25, 2024! A list of needs will be in April's Beacon or you can go to bchfoodroundup.org



**FOOD
ROUNDUP**
BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOMES

Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program

If you are interested in signing up to provide food at our Friday Feed the Hungry lunch program please contact Katie.



Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: January **2024**

Food	14
Medicine	1
Counseling	34
Power	<u>15</u>
Total Assisted Units:	64

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 March:

Dover:

Ervin Price, 17 years

New Hope:

Russ Bradley, 18 years

Pathway:

James Hamrick, 46 years

Pleasant City:

Bryan Glisson, 25 years

Westover:

Kevin Whittington, 11 years



Block Party Trailer

The rental calendar for our Block Party Trailer fills up fast, especially for the Spring and Summer. If you are interested in using the trailer for outreach events please call us to reserve it. The trailer includes a popcorn machine, snow cone machine, cotton candy machine, games, sound system, and more. The trailer cost \$100 to rent and includes all supplies needed to run the machines.



Pray for these couples on their special day in March:

Camps Creek – Steve and Debbie Durham—18th
Fallston—Toby and Christy LeRoy—24th



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

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



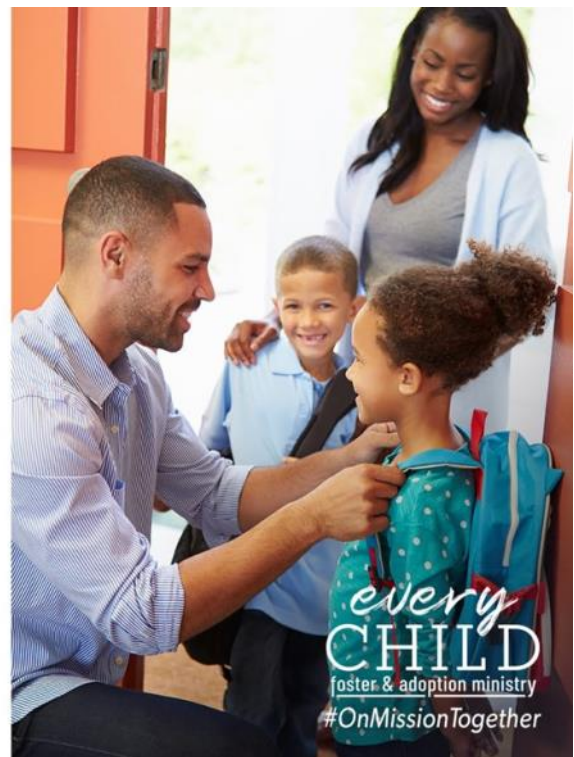
**Sunday,
March
10th!**



We believe that EVERY CHILD deserves a safe, stable, and loving home. Whether it is a temporary placement or a long-term living situation, we know that the local church can bridge the gap for the thousands of children in the North Carolina foster care system.

Every Child Progress to date
Foster Homes Licensed to date : 401
Foster Children served to date: 820

For more information call
Dr. Mark Smith 828-450-9136



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.

Crestview:

Crestview Baptist Church of Shelby is searching for a **musical accompanist (piano)** to serve in a permanent part-time position. This will include Wednesday night choir practice and Sunday morning service, plus planning and practice time and special services as requested. Send resume to: Personnel Committee, Attn: Amy Wright/ Chairman, Crestview Baptist Church, 1090 Old Boiling Springs Road, Shelby, North Carolina 28152

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.

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

Second Baptist Church, Kings Mountain:

Director of Student Ministries

We are looking to hire an exemplary individual with outstanding leadership abilities to guide our Church's various ministries to students. This individual will strive to encourage all students in their spiritual growth, teaching them to expand their knowledge of God, and support them to develop their love for Him and others. The Director of Student Ministries will attend student functions at schools, grow relationships with the education community, and provide students and their families with Biblical counselling. To be successful in this position means providing students with a place to belong that gives them the courage to stand for Christ among unhealthy peer pressure. Ideal candidates should have insight and understanding of the challenges facing students and a compassionate response to their situations. Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Road, Kings Mountain, NC 28086, 704-739-4216

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.

Polkville Baptist Church is prayerfully seeking a **Minster to Students**. Those interested must have a call by God to vocational church ministry and a degree, or working towards, from an accredited college/university in religious studies. Those considered will show a desire to work with students of all ages from birth through college age; work with the pastor by providing a vision for students in the church and community; work with parents and families to establish discipleship programs for all student ages; and work with children and youth planning teams to organize and implement ministry to students of the church. For full job description please send an email request to employment@polkvillebaptist.com. Resumes will be accepted by email, employment@polkvillebaptist.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.

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.

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.
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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

4— Minister's Conference, GCCBA, 11:30 am
5— Baltimore Mission Trip Meeting, GCCBA, 6:00 pm
7— Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
14— Youth Minister's Breakfast, Ken and Mary, 8:00 am
17— Association Bible Drill, 3:30 pm
21— Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
28— Upper Cleveland Minister's Fellowship at Christie's Kitchen, 8:30 am

