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 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

Zion Zion Hill Zoar

Westover Westview

Wallace Grove
Washington Missionary

Westwood Heights

Office: 704-482-3472

Website: gccba.org



Assistance Office: 704-481-9119

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association

Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

THE BEACON

Volume 67, Issue 12

December 2025

It's beginning to look a lot like...crazy! If you are like me, everything speeds up this time of year. We have gifts to buy, parties to attend, and events on every weekend. It is hard sometimes to remember that we celebrate a quiet night in Bethlehem, when all we do is make a lot of noise around the holidays.

In my years as a pastor, I was shocked by how busy the Christmas season was for my household. Yes, we had the church's Christmas calendar to attend to, as well as family obligations, the normal church rhythm, and ministering to those who were struggling through what is supposed to be the most joyous time of the year, but there was also the unavoidable and unforeseen events that would often take our time. I would find myself exhausted before we ever reached December 25th.

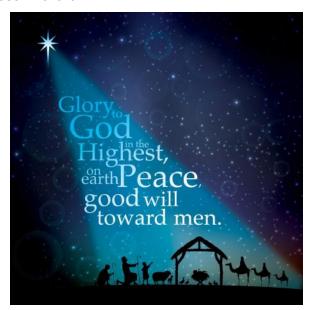
The truth is, I know your pastor feels this too. So, this month I want to offer you 7 gifts you can give your pastor (in no particular order) that will make this holiday season one that he can truly enjoy and find rest in:

- 1. **Encourage your pastor and staff**. It sounds simple but letting your pastor and staff know how much they mean to you in a simple note or a kind word means a lot in this busy time of holiday fatigue.
- 2. Appreciate your pastor and staff by encouraging them to take their spouse to the Pastor's appreciation dinner with the GCCBA. (I know this a shameless plug, but I mean it). This year we will celebrate our pastors on December 1st at 6:30 PM. Fallston Baptist Church is graciously serving us by hosting this year and we want to encourage your pastor and your staff at this event.
- 3. **Lend them a helping hand.** Many of our pastors and staff will host events in their homes or at the church where, although its not "in the job description," they will put a lot of effort into serving the church body through a meal or a reception. Take the time to bring food or volunteer to help serve so that the pastor can worry less about logistics and more about loving your people.

Thoughts from Staff

- 4. **Show up!** With all the events and activities planned in our churches, the pastor and staff know that they are expected to be there, so make sure you show up as well. There is nothing more demoralizing than planning a meaningful holiday service and half the church decides that it's just not that important.
- 5. **Take it off the plate.** With all the previous plans and expectations mentioned, keep in mind that not everything is necessary. You have to give the pastor and staff the freedom to not do things that the church may no longer feel are necessary. If no one attends the candlelight service (including you) then it may be time to stop having it. If the group that goes to the Samaritan's Purse processing center is dwindling, then take who signs up and give the pastor and staff the night off. Often, they need our permission to rest.
- 6. Give them a gift. I know, everyone is giving gifts at this time and what do you give a pastor anyway? (Just so you know, I own over 50 bibles. We love them, but if your pastor doesn't have one, we may need to have a different conversation.) Your gift doesn't need to be extravagant, just meaningful in letting them know you care. The youth pastor may love a gift card to take his wife out to eat with an offer to babysit. The pastor or any member of the staff may love to join the GCCBA's Minister and Spouse retreat on March 6 through 8 (I know, that's two shameless plugs, but 10 out of 10 pastors agree, a free retreat is always a welcome gift). This year we will be in Ridgecrest with Dr. Tate and Wendy Cockrell for a look at the challenge of marriage and ministry. We have a few spaces left and we would love to have your pastor and staff join us. Call the office for more info 704-482-3472.
- **7. Pray for them.** Now, don't pick this one because its cheap, because if you do it right, it may be the most expensive. First of all, let your pastor and staff know you are praying for them. Tell them personally, don't just mention it as you walk out the door this Sunday—write it in a note, call them, or best of all, make an appointment and drop by their office. Ask them for how you can pray and then before you hang up or get up to leave pray. As a pastor I would pray a lot, but I rarely heard others pray, and even more rarely did I hear them pray for me. If you want to give them a true gift, pray over them so they hear it. Then, pray over them when they can't as in, every day as you spend time with God, keep them before him always.

Jason Ballard



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 2025 contributions



Pastoral Health



Ministers Christmas Dinner

Monday, December 1st Dinner: 6:30 pm Fallston Baptist

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

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

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday, November 18th, at 8:30 am.

2026 Minister's & Spouses Pastors Retreat

Only a few spots remain please sign up ASAP if you want to attend!

RESTORE

GCCBA MINISTER & SPOUSE RETREAT

MARCH 6TH , 8TH, 2026 RIDGECREST CONFERENCE CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER: DR. TATE & WENDY COCKRELL

COST:

EARLY BIRD: \$400 (PAID IN FULL BY SEPTEMBER 8TH) COST AFTER SEPTEMBER 8TH: \$475

TO SIGN UP CALL OR EMAIL KATIE
OR NICOLE
704-482-3472/KATIE@GCCBA.ORG

Pastors Anniversaries for December:

Eastside KM:

Ron Caulder, 16 years

New Prospect:

Chris Devine, 9 years

Pleasant Grove:

Toby Bird, 5 years

Oak View:

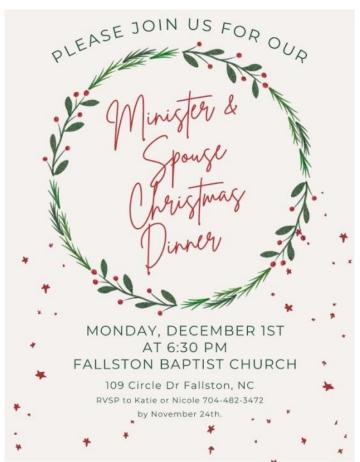
Wayne Brazzell, 7 years

Pray for these couples on their special day in December:

Lattimore—Chris and Janet—10th Mt. Sinai – Tim and Lisa Trexler - 19th



Office will be closed Tuesday 23rd at NOON Thursday, December 24th —Monday, January 1st





Community Engagement



Christmas Toy Store

Volunteers are needed to help during the Toy Store on December 10th 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 9th from 6-7 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 (0-4): 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



Leadership Development

To register please contact:

katie@gccba.org

Katie Harris 704-482-3472 or



We are excited to be offering the following Go Mini Certificate in Biblical Foundations for Small Group Leaders through Southeastern Baptist Seminary. The classes will be held at our office once a week starting in January and finishing up by the end of May. The cost of the class is \$60 per person as the association will supplement the actual cost. The class will be limited to 25 people. To sign up or for more information please contact Katie Harris.

SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY **GO MINI CERTIFICATE:** SMALL GROUP LEADER TRAINING: **BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS** Each course is taught by SEBTS faculty through video and small group discussion will be led by GCCBA Staff. Courses include: Teaching for Transformation ✓ Old Testament Overview New Testament Overview Christian Doctrine FIRST CLASS: THURSDAY 6:00 pm-7:30 pm JANUARY 8TH, 2026 **Cost of Mini Certificate:** \$60 per person

GCCBA



Ministry Support



WMU Children's Missions Day on January 10th from 9-2 pm



Friday Feed the Hungry

We are excited that in 2026 First Baptist Church, Shelby will be managing the Friday Feed the Hungry Lunch Program which they will call The Gathering. If you would like to help provide food for the ministry please contact the church office at 704-482-3467.

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: October 2025

Food 23 Medicine 1 Other 1 Power Total Assisted Units: 40





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, KINGS MOUNTAIN

605 W KING ST

DOORS OPEN & BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM TRAINING: 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM



Please RSVP by email katie@gccba.org or by scanning the QR code







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

Spaghetti sauce spaghetti noodles peanut butter ielly 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



Congregational Health



CHURCH HEALTH CHECK UP

CONFERENCE LED BY: JASON BALLARD

Monday January 26th, 2026



Supper: 6:00 PM Training: 6:30 PM

at Zoar Baptist Church

Please RSVP by January 20th
Topic:
Value Driven Strategy



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

Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

Bethany ~ Christian Freedom ~ Crestview ~ Dover ~ Fallston ~ Norman's Grove ~ Pleasant Hill ~ Trinity ~ Union ~ Waco



Bethany:

Bethany Baptist Church, located in the peaceful community of Grover, North Carolina, is prayerfully seeking the **pastor** that God has chosen to lead and serve our congregation. We are a small but faithful and loving church family, with an average attendance of 30-45 members. We have the best praise team a church could ask for with live music and instruments that is an amazing experience to praise with. We desire a pastor that is not only committed to preaching the Word of God but also walking alongside us in worship, fellowship, and life. We believe that being a pastor is more than delivering a sermon on Sunday — it's about being part of a family. At Bethany Baptist, we strive to love one another, serve our community, and grow in Christ together. We gather each Wednesday for a time of fellowship, a short message, and a shared hot meal — a cherished tradition that brings us closer together. We are open to both full- time and bivocational candidates, depending on the best fit for our church and the calling God has placed on the pastor's life. Our desire is for someone who feels led to shepherd, encourage, and grow with us — someone who values the church, and the youth, as well as the community as much as the pulpit. If you feel called to a close-knit church that is hungry for God's Word, rooted in love, and ready to support a pastor who will lead with humility and heart, we would love to hear from you. To express

interest or request more information, please contact our pulpit committee via phone call/Text for information on where to send a resume 980-522-1403. We are praying for you even now, that God would lead the right shepherd to our church. Bethany Baptist Church 723 Cleveland Avenue Grover, North Carolina 28073

Boiling Springs:

Boiling Springs Baptist Church is seeking a **part-time organist/accompanist**. Please send resume and inquiries bsbcsearch2024@qmail.com

Calvary:

Calvary Baptist Church is seeking a passionate and dedicated **Director of Children and Youth Ministry** to nurture the spiritual growth, engagement, and discipleship of our children, youth, and their families. For more information and to apply, please contact Pastor Rob at robert@visitcalvaryonline.com

Camps Creek:

Camps Creek Baptist Church in Mooresboro, NC is seeking a **permanent part-time Minister of Music.** We are looking for someone who can bring a diverse and dynamic approach to the music ministry. The ideal candidate would need to be versatile in different worship styles and appreciate a blended music ministry program. They would have a passion for developing and encouraging musicians and vocalists. This position will provide leadership to the adult choir and praise team by guiding and encouraging freedom in praising God and spiritual growth. Interested candidates, please send a resume to campscreek@yahoo.com. To request additional details, email campscreek@yahoo.com or contact the church office at 704-434-2354 (M-Th 9 am-1pm).

Crestview:

Crestview Baptist Church in Shelby, NC is seeking a **pastor**. We are a member of the Southern Baptist Convention reaching out to our community with the love of Jesus Christ. We value all ages and generations of our congregation and strive to serve each other with kindness and good will. There is a great opportunity for growth in our church that we are looking forward to developing with the right leadership. Our ideal candidate should be skilled in teaching/ preaching God's word in a manner that challenges membership to grow in their faith. The candidate should be a good leader and roll model as described in I Timothy 3, be available and approachable, and be willing to serve the membership and community in a way that brings honor and glory to our Lord, Jesus Christ. Crestview 704.487.7485 - 1090 Old Boiling Springs Rd., Shelby 28152 https://www.crestviewbaptistshelby.com/

Double Springs:

Double Springs Baptist Church is currently accepting applications for the position of a **Children and Youth Ministry Leader**. This is a fulltime position of 35 hours per week. Weekends, evenings, and some holiday responsibilities required. Below is a brief description of needed qualifications for the position. Additional information can be obtained from the Personnel Committee, including a complete job description. Contact information: Double Springs Baptist Church 1130 Double Springs Church Road, Shelby NC Attention: Personnel Committee

Dover:

Dover Baptist Church is seeking an experienced, **part-time pianist**. Responsibilities include Sunday morning worship service and Sunday evening choir practice. The pianist will also play for specially scheduled activities and funerals/ weddings when needed. Dover offers competitive pay and paid vacation/sick time. Resumes may be sent to Dover Baptist Church, Attention Ashley Smith: 1501 Shelby Rd. Shelby, NC, 28150. Applicants may also contact Ashley Smith @ 704-472-9730 or email at doverbaptistshelby@gmail.com.



Congregational Health



Elizabeth:

Elizabeth Baptist Church in Shelby, NC is searching for a **Student Pastor** to continue our growing ministry. We are searching for the right man to come alongside our families to nurture our students and partner with their families as they grow in the Lord. This is a full-time position with a salary plus benefits. Our current Student Pastor is still at the church and will be moving into a supervisory Family/Next Gen Pastor role when this position is filled. Our student ministry is currently growing, and this is an exciting time in our ministry.

Flint Hill:

Flint Hill Baptist Church (2207 Flint Hill Church Rd, Shelby, NC 28152) is currently looking for a **part time Audio Engineer**. This individual should possess clear competencies in audio, media, IT, and lighting technologies. Resumes should be emailed to parkersdad117@yahoo.com

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.

Northside:

Northside Baptist is in need of a **pianist** for Sunday morning and Wednesday nights. Please call Gary Barnett for more details 704-466-6734

Oak Grove:

Oak Grove Baptist Church is prayerfully looking to add to its existing staff. We are in need of 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: oqbc1022@qmail.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 City:

We are seeking a passionate and dedicated **Connect Pastor** to join our team. With an average weekly attendance of 1,200 and a vibrant Connect Group ministry involving over 48 Connect groups and 121 Connect group leaders, this position plays a vital role in leading our church to love God, connect with others, and reach the world. We encourage all applicants to explore our website to learn more about our vision, beliefs, and church culture. A full job description and application instructions are available below. FULL-TIME POSITION To Apply:- Review Job Description, - Please send your cover letter and resume to eryan@pccshelby.com by October 13th. ,- Include in your resume a brief bio detailing information on your family, testimony, call to ministry, and your church history. If you desire to ensure receipt of resume submission, you may contact the church office at (704-487-6415).

Pleasant Grove:

Pleasant Grove Baptist— **Part time Office Administrator**. 18 hours per week. Interest or questions, please email toby@pgbcshelby.org

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 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.

Pleasant Ridge:

Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church in Shelby, NC is prayerfully seeking a **full-time Minister of Youth and Children**. Those interested should be called by God and equipped with a heart to help grow our ministry to both age groups. This person shall also work to strengthen relationships with parents by offering opportunities for families to engage in ministry and worship together. To request a detailed job description, you can email pleasant.ridge@att.net. To submit your resume you can mail it to 198 Pleasant Ridge Church Rd., Shelby, NC 28152, or you can email it to pleasant.ridge@att.net.

Ross Grove

Ross Grove is seeking an individual for the Church Instrumentalist (Pianist) position. The ability to play organ would be fantastic, but it is not required. This position is a part-time, competitive pay for the area, salaried position. Position includes playing music for Sunday morning worship, choir rehearsals, and any special planned events (the odd evening service, cantata, revival, etc.) Funerals and Weddings are not required but are paid over and above salary. Any qualified candidates should be proficient in their skill level, such as sight-reading standard arrangements and accompaniment pieces. The candidate must be flexible in rare changes to the service, possess an all-important Christ-like manner, and have a good attitude. They will need to be self-motivated, have strong interpersonal skills, work well with others, and be flexible during the Christmas and Easter seasons. For additional information, please email personnel@rossgrove.org to submit your resume, 2 references, and, if possible, a video/audio sample of your playing. Our church is a great place to serve the Lord!

Trinity Baptist:

Trinity Baptist Church of Mooresboro North Carolina is seeking a **qualified Church Organist**. Job would require Playing for Sunday morning worship and Wednesday night choir practice. If anyone is interested or know someone who is interested leave a message on the church office phone. 704-434-6012 or email trinitybaptistchurchnc@gmail.com

Trinity Baptist Church of Mooresboro is seeking a **fulltime pastor**. We are seeking a compassionate and visionary pastor to lead our congregation. Interested candidates should submit a resume, cover letter, and a statement of faith by email or mail. Email: trinitybaptistnc@gmail.com or 746 Trinity Church Road, Mooresboro, NC 28114.

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@gccba.org

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

Office Administrator: Nicole Mosley nicole@gccba.org



1— Minister's Christmas Dinner, Fallston, 6:30 pm

4- Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am

10—GCCBA Toy Store, Shelby Mission Camp, 8:30 am

18-Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am

23- GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED AT NOON

24-31— GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED