

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
 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 68, Issue 1

January 2026

The GCCBA exists to build (and rebuild) healthy churches

BY

uniting congregations in effective missions and ministry!

THROUGH

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

Are you ready to kick 2026 off with a bang?! That's usually my intention with each new year. New workout routines. New goals for my work at the GCCBA. New plans for the coming year. But if I'm being honest, not many of those will come with an accurate evaluation of the past year. I usually rush ahead into what I want to do so fast, that I forget to take stock in what I have done and where that might point me.

The same can be said of our churches. As church members and leaders, we need yearly goals in discipleship and service as wells as plans for all the services to come in the new year. However, we rarely take a long enough look at how things have gone and are going to understand what we can do moving forward. This is never more apparent than when a church finds itself caught in the downward cycle of church decline, but we cannot measure church health entirely by the numbers. This begs the question: what do we measure? What are the signs and symptoms of Church Health? Is it just a matter of buildings, bodies, and budgets; or is there something more of a spiritual element to a healthy church?

This January, the GCCBA launches its new ministry structure with our Missional Value Teams of Ministry Support, Pastoral Health, Leadership Development, Mission Partnerships, Community Engagement and Congregational Health. These teams have already started meeting and planning for our ministry events in the coming year. The first team to host an event will be our congregational health team as we host the Church Health Check-Up on January 26th at Zoar Baptist Church, starting at 6:30 PM where we will be focusing on the question, "What are the marks of a healthy church?"

The goal of this night will be to help everyone present get an honest picture of the health of their church and assess what steps need to be taken to improve in the coming months. Just like any medical check-up you may attend – the value of what you learn is only good for you if you follow-up the diagnosis with a careful effort to change and improve you health. We hope that you will leave that night with some tangible steps to improve the health of your church.

Jason Ballard



Ministry Support



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

Jan. 10 2026

Children's Missions Day

Bethlehem Baptist Church,
1017 Bethlehem Rd
Kings Mountain

**Join us as we explore "travel" to Central Asia
and hear how God is moving in Turkey and
other countries. There will be things to see,
hear, taste and make!**

**SCAN HERE TO
REGISTER OR
GO TO
WMUNC.ORG**



- Meet a missionary (or two)
- Make a delicious treat from Turkey.
- Play games from Turkey and Pakistan
- Learn how God speaks to Muslim people who have never heard the gospel.
- Make a craft like the children in Afghanistan!

GROWING LEADERS

IGNITE

FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

**JOIN US FOR OUR ASSOCIATIONAL YOUTH
MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

SATURDAY JANUARY 31ST, 2026

**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@gccbba.org or by
scanning the QR code





JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION

*How your church can effectively
reach & minister
to College Students*

**Monday January 5th, 2026
@ 6:30 pm
GCCBA Office, Wyke Rd**

Special Guest:
Alex Hugo, College Ministries Strategist
Baptist State Convention of NC

Register Here:



SPECIAL NEEDS Ministry Training

**Monday February 9th @ 6:30 pm
First Baptist Church, Kings Mountain
605 W King St, Kings Mountain**

Joni & Friends will be joining us to talk about how your church can build a comprehensive plan for your churches Special Needs Ministry. Children's Ministers, Pastors, and Volunteers are welcome to attend.



Contact Us! ☎ 704-482-3472 🌐 www.gccbba.org



Pastoral Health



Ministers Conference

Monday, January 5, 2026

Lunch 11:30am, Program 12:00pm.

Alex Hugo, College Ministries Strategist, Ministry Strategies Group BSCNC

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the

Carolina Crossing Restaurant on Thursday,
January 1st, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the

Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday,
November 15th, at 8:30 am.

2026 Minister's & Spouses Pastors Retreat

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

Pastors Anniversaries for January:

Buffalo:

Dustin Mace, 6 years

Christopher Road:

Mike Tucker, 9 years

Getsemani:

Ramses A. Altamirano, 5 years

Lattimore:

Chris Roberts, 1 year

Oak Grove:

Jason Allen, 6 years

Sunrise:

Dennis Harmon, 24 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



Office will be closed December

Tuesday 23rd – at NOON

Thursday,

December 24th —Monday,

January 1st

Annual Church Profile

The Annual Church Profile (ACP) is a church survey used to track ministry data. As your church completes the survey each year, you have access to data from prior year submissions at SBC Worksapce and ChurchPOP.

The new 2025 ACP digital form is quicker & easier than ever! The submitted data for this reporting period is typically Jan. 1, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2024. Deadline is January 30, reach out to Nicole Mosley with any questions!

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



Community Engagement



Christmas Toy Store

Thank you to everyone who helped during our annual Christmas Toy Store. We were able to minister to over 300 children in Cleveland County. The stories of the families that we helped during the Toy Store are both heart breaking and inspiring. Our goal during this mission event is to make sure each family hears about God's love for them and is encouraged and uplifted with the good news of the gospel. I appreciate those who volunteered their time to talk with the families and love on them! We also appreciate the many people who donated toys and gave financial gifts to help us purchase additional gifts.



Leadership Development



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
JANUARY 8TH, 2026**

6:00 pm-7:30 pm
GCCBA Office

**Cost of Mini Certificate:
\$60 per person**

To register please contact :
Katie Harris 704-482-3472 or
katie@gccbba.org



PLEASE SIGN UP USING THE
QR CODE OR EMAIL:
katie@gccbba.org



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



Missions Partnerships



We invite you to celebrate
75 years of ministry!

Our 2026 Week of Prayer and Offering for Older Adults is the perfect opportunity to support the work of ThriveMore and Baptist Retirement Homes Foundation.

JANUARY 26 - FEBRUARY 1, 2026

Please join us and others across the state as we celebrate the impact of 75 years of ministry to older adults.

- Your prayers encourage our residents and staff.
- Your offerings ensure a loving home and promise of care.
- Your support of our work helps share the love of Christ.
- Your partnership helps make our work possible.

There are three ways to get your resource materials:

1. Scan this QR code and order materials online:
2. Visit ThrivemoreNC.org/church-resources to download or order materials.
3. Contact Stephanie Moody Shaffer with your request: sshaffer@thrivemorenc.org or 919.413.4614



PLEASE ORDER YOUR MATERIALS SOON!

Feel free to contact me with any questions or to inquire about having a member of our team share at your church. We are grateful for you and your care for older adults in need!

Grace and Peace,

Stephanie M. Shaffer

Stephanie Moody Shaffer
Manager of Chaplaincy and Faith Relations

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
FOUNDATION



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 or click this link

<https://grasshoppersignup.com/s/x1wkdu>



GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS:

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: November 2025

Food	33
Other	3
Power	23
Total Assisted Units:	59



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!



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

Boiling Springs:

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

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.

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

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



Congregational Health



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: 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 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 & resumes please send an email request to 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.

Zoar:

Zoar Baptist Church is seeking a Christ-centered, musically gifted **Part-Time Worship Leader** to plan and lead meaningful blended worship services with a small praise team, and support the overall ministry of the church. Responsibilities include coordinating Sunday worship, directing weekly rehearsals, selecting music, preparing worship materials, collaborating with the pastor on weekly and seasonal services, providing leadership for special events, assisting with church functions such as VBS, and encouraging praise team volunteers. Candidates should demonstrate a growing relationship with Jesus Christ, musical proficiency, strong communication and organizational skills, and a commitment to teamwork. Experience with blended worship & audio/visual background, preferred. This role has a projected pay range of \$10,000-\$12,000 per year (based on experience) with an average of 10 hours per week. Applicants are invited to submit a résumé and any worship samples for consideration to zoarworship@zoarchurch.com. Or mail resumes to: Zoar Baptist Church, Attn: Lyn Carroll, Search Committee, 1740 S. Lafayette St., Shelby, NC 28152

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

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jason@gccbba.org

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Office Administrator:
Nicole Mosley
nicole@gccbba.org

1— GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
1— Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
5— Minister's Conference, GCCBA, 11:30 am
College Ministry, GCCBA, 6:30 pm
15— Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
26— Church Health Checkup, Zoar Baptist, 6:00 pm
31— Youth Volunteer Training, FBC Kings Mountain, 9am-noon

