

Allen Memorial
 Battleground
 Beaver Dam
 Betania 1ra Iglesia
 Bethany
 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 9

September 2026

In the New Testament, the word translated as "opportunity" is *eukairos*, which literally means "well-timed." Sometimes an opportunity arises for what we can do for others, such as a "well-timed" conversation with someone that leads them to Christ or perhaps a "well-timed" intervention in someone's life that helps them climb out of poverty, addiction, or abuse. The problem with these "well-timed" moments, though, is that they are "timed," which means that once the moment has passed, it is gone. Whether you are a teacher, a deacon, a pastor, or someone trying to follow Jesus for the first time, you have to stay attentive to the "well-timed" moments that God may be presenting to you for your own spiritual health, as well as the impact God may want to have on others through you.

On August 31, the GCCBA will present pastors, ministers, and staff with one of those opportunities through our first-ever Pastors' Health Check-Up at FBC Kings Mountain, located at 605 West Kings Street, Kings Mountain, NC. This event will begin at 8:30 AM with a light breakfast, and our first session will begin at 9 AM with Dr. Sandy Marks, Pastor Health Specialist from the NC Baptist State Convention. Several breakout sessions will follow, along with a box lunch. We will conclude the event at 1 PM with Dr. Steve McKinion, Professor of Theology and Director of the PhD program at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of *Serving Jesus Without Burning Out*. All registered attendees will receive a copy of Dr. McKinion's book. You can register by calling our office at 704-482-3472 or by emailing Nicole@gccba.org. Pastors, ministers, and staff, don't miss this opportunity to address your spiritual health.

Then, in September, the GCCBA will partner with our neighbor, the Greater Gaston Baptist Association, to offer our Fall 2026 Leadership Training event for pastors, staff, deacons, and all church leaders on Thursday, September 17, from 6 to 8:30 PM. We are excited to have professor, commentary author, and pastor Dr. Landon Dowden speak to us about leading your church from the heart of Scripture.

In partnership with the GGBA, we will hold this event at Salvation Church at Rankin Lake, located at 2705 Gastonia Dallas Hwy, Gastonia, NC, just off I-85 on Hwy 321. We will serve dinner at 6 PM, and Dr. Dowden will begin his presentation around 6:45 PM. You can register for this event as well by calling our office at 704-482-3472 or by emailing Nicole@gccba.org. Don't miss this opportunity to equip pastors, staff ministers, deacons, and volunteer leaders with a clearer picture of what the Bible has to say about leading the church.

These "well-timed" moments are key and will help your pastor and church leaders take the important steps to lead your church with confidence and conviction. Please join us on August 31 and September 17 for these opportunities.

Jason Ballard



Community Engagement



Cleveland County Fair Ministry

We are working now to plan our Fair Ministry including the set up day lunch and Wednesday morning breakfast. If you would like to be involved in these please let Katie know. You can also help by providing toiletry or food bags. Please see more information about that below.



We will be once again be hosting a lunch and breakfast for the Fair workers that work at the Cleveland County Fair. We want to provide food bags and toiletry bags to them. Please scan the QR Code below to sign up to provide bags or email katie@gccba.org

Bags are due to the GCCBA office by September 28th



Fair Ministry Food Box/Bag:

Each box/bag should include the following:

- 1 box of crackers
- 1 jar of peanut butter
- 1 jar of jelly
- 1 box of poparts
- 2 cans of canned chicken
- 2 cans of Vienna sausages
- 2 cans of mixed fruit
- 2 cans of chunky soup
- 2 cans of Spaghettios/ or other type of pasta

****Please only put these items in the food boxes/bags so they are all the same****

Fair Ministry Toiletry Bag:

- Gallon ziplock bag
- 1 full bottle of shampoo
- 1 tube of toothpaste
- 1 bar of soap
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 washcloth
- Deodorant (men's or women's)
- Hand lotion
- Band-aids
- Chapstick

GCCBA FOOD PANTRY NEEDED ITEMS:

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!

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: July 2026
Food 17
Power 28
Other 3
Total Assisted Units: 48

LAUNDRY POD *Collection*



Help us collect 2,000 laundry pods for the Hope & Love Rescue Mission

Pods are due to our office by November 12th

Questions? Please contact Katie Harris



Pastoral Health



Ministers Conference

Monday, August 31st (For September Meeting)
8:30 am—1:00 pm

Pastor's Health Check up with
Dr. Sandy Marks & Dr. Steve McKinion

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Carolina Crossing Restaurant on Thursday,
September 3rd, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday,
September 17th, at 8:30 am.

Pastors Anniversaries for September:

Mulls Memorial:
Jimmy Black, 9 years
Patterson Grove:
Brad Bridges, 3 years



Pray for these couples on their special day in September:

Bethlehem - Steve and Tois Taylor—12th
Northside—Matthew and Ashley Sparks—29th



2027 Minister's & Spouses Pastors Retreat
DON'T MISS OUT ON THE EARLY BIRD RATE!!

RESTORE

GCCBA MINISTER &
SPOUSE RETREAT

FEBRUARY 5TH-7TH, 2027
RIDGECREST
CONFERENCE CENTER

GUEST SPEAKER:
DR CHUCK LAWLESS

COST:
EARLY PRICE (PAY BY
SEPTEMBER 8TH): \$400
REGULAR PRICE: \$475

TO SIGN UP CALL OR EMAIL KATIE

PASTOR'S HEALTH CHECK UP



Facing the challenges of Pastoral
Ministry with confidence in Christ

Guest Speakers:

Dr Sandy Marks, NC Baptist

Dr. Steve McKinion, Southeastern
Seminary

Monday August 31st, 2026

8:30 am Breakfast

9:00 am Speaker, lunch, break outs

1:00 pm dismissal



PLEASE REGISTER BY EMAILING
INFO@GCCBA.ORG



@gccbashelby



Ministry Support



2027 GCCBA Marriage Conference

Save the Date: April 9th & 10th at the Legrand Center. To help keep the cost low for those who attend we are asking for churches to help sponsor the conference. Please see the flyer and let us know if you have any questions.



Led by Dr Tate & Wendy Cockrell

April 9 & 10th, 2027

Legrand Center Shelby NC

- ☒ Friday Supper & Session
- ☒ Saturday Breakfast & Session
- ☒ Ends before lunch on Saturday

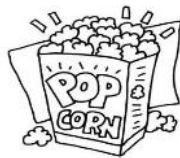
Join us as a Sponsoring Church:

- ☒ Sponsorship Levels:
 - \$100 (includes 2 conference tickets)
 - \$500 (includes 4 conference tickets)
 - \$1,000 (includes 10 conference tickets)
- ☒ For more information on how your church can help sponsor this event contact Jason Ballard or Katie Harris



Block Party Trailer

The schedule for the trailer fills up fast for the 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.




Next Up

A CALL TO THE NEXT GENERATION TO LEAD
FEATURING THE HIGHER PLACES TOUR

SATURDAY: 7:00-9:00 PM
24 OCT

SPEAKER:
ANDY CHRISMAN OF 4HIM

WORSHIP BY:
CONSUMED BY FIRE, V-ROSE, &
CHURCH FOR THE CITY WORSHIP

📍 BRINKLEY AMPHITHEATER
ON THE CAMPUS OF GARDNER WEBB UNIVERSITY



Leadership Development



Leadership Training

Leading your Church from the heart of Scripture

Join us for a meal, fellowship, and a time of learning.

Guest Speaker: Dr Landon Dowden
Pastor, Author, & Professor

Date & Time:
Thursday September 17th 2026
6:00 pm Supper 6:45 Speaker begins

Location:
Salvation Church at Rankin Lake
2705 Gastonia Dallas Highway Dallas, NC



Scan here to Register
or email
katie@gccbba.org





Missions Partnerships



The theme for 2026 is "Living Sent," and the offering goal is \$2.8 million.

Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, I also send you.' John 20:21 (CSB)



North Carolina Missions Offering (NCMO) brings relief to those in need through disaster response, church planting and mobilizing of N.C. Baptists for missions. Generous donations through NCMO fund the mission throughout the year. Please pray about giving to NCMO for Baptist on Mission.

Collection Dates
July 1st-October 28th, 2026

Men's, women's & children's coats (preferred sizes are S, M, L, & XL)
New or gently used heavy coats that can withstand a New York City winter
No holes, tears or stains, Zippers should work and all buttons should be present.
Monetary donations can be given to help purchase new coats.

Drop off location:
GCCBA Office 1175 Wyke Rd Shelby

More Information: www.gccba.org/coatsforthecity

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>



September 7
for Labor
Day



Please visit our website, www.gccba.org and other social media sites for information, training, and mission opportunities. Join one of our Facebook groups for your area!

Reminder of Meetings in September

Budget Team—
September 8 at 11:45am





Congregational Health



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.



Beaver Dam ~ Buffalo ~ Christian
Freedom ~ Crestview ~ Faith ~ Fallston ~
Lattimore ~ New Bethel ~ Oak Grove ~
Pleasant Hill ~ Waco

Buffalo:

Buffalo Baptist in Shelby, NC is seeking a **full time pastor** who God is calling to serve our church and community. We are a conservative Southern Baptist congregation who is seeking a dedicated, energetic, and caring pastor who will preach the true word of God. The pastor will lead 3 services each week (Sunday morning, Sunday night, Wednesday night). Our pastor will be a man of the highest Godly character with God guided leadership and vision. He will have a minimum of 5 years of ministry experience with a seminary degree. Please submit resumes including details of spiritual journey and calling by God to be a pastor to: Pastor Search Committee c/o Buffalo Baptist 108 Buffalo Church Rd, Shelby NC 28150.

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 robort@visitcalvaryonline.com and encouraging freedom in praising God and spiritual growth. Interested candidates, please send a resume to camps creek@yahoo.com. To request additional details, email camps creek@yahoo.com or contact the church office at 704-434-2354 (M-Th 9 am- 1pm).

Calvary Baptist Church of Shelby, NC is looking for a **part-time Minister of Music (M.o.M)**. The M.o.M will work with the Pastor to follow the Holy Spirit's lead in developing and implementing God's vision for worship at Calvary. The person must have a knowledge and appreciation for both "traditional" and "contemporary" worship music but must not be bound by either. For more information, please contact Pastor Rob (robort@visitcalvaryonline.com)

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.

First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain:

First Baptist Church of Kings Mountain, a conservative SBC church, is seeking a **Children's Pastor** to lead and shepherd children and their families. Candidates must demonstrate a clear calling to children's ministry, a passion for the gospel, and hold (or be nearing) a master's degree in ministry. Ordination (or pursuit of it) is preferred. A minimum of three years of church staff experience in children's or family ministry is required. The ideal candidate will have strengths in leadership, teaching, discipleship, and volunteer development, and be committed to inclusive ministry (including special needs) and strong child safety practices. This role requires a lifestyle of Christian integrity and servant leadership. Background checks will be conducted. Compensation is commensurate with experience and includes salary, bonuses, housing allowance, insurance, retirement, and professional development. Resumes sent employment@fbckm.com

Lattimore Baptist Church:

Send resumes to: lbcsecretary2016@gmail.com Lattimore is in search of a **Children and Youth Director** to lay a foundation upon which a successful Youth and Children's Ministry might be built while allowing the flexibility of the Youth/Children's Ministry Leader to minister to them in his or her own way under the leadership and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

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 seeking a **Permanent Part-Time Music Minister**. The candidate should be comfortable leading contemporary and traditional music. Responsibilities include Sunday mornings and other times as needed, collaborating with the pastor and selecting music for weekly services and special occasions. There is an opportunity here to grow the worship experience by forming a choir or praise team. Please send resumes to Oak Grove Baptist Church 1022 Oak Grove Road Kings Mtn., NC 28086 or ogbc1022@gmail.com (Atten: Worship Ministry Team)

Oak Grove Baptist Church, located in the Oak Grove community of Kings Mountain, NC is seeking a **pastor**. This is a Southern Baptist Church, established in 1897, with a rich history of ministry. We are excited to welcome the one God is calling to grow and continue this ministry. While we are not putting restrictions on God's choice for us, we believe his choice will have some theological training, believe the Bible to be the infallible and inerrant word of God, and will share the love of Christ with others. He will work with the current staff and any new staff that is added and lay people to strengthen our commitment to God and His teachings in this community and the world. Oak Grove Baptist Church abides by the 2000 Baptist Faith and Message. Interested applicants may send resumes to Oak Grove Baptist Church 1022 Oak Grove Road Kings Mtn., NC 28086 or ogbc1022@gmail.com (Atten: Pastor Church Committee)

Patterson Grove:

Patterson Grove Baptist Church is seeking a **Part-time Children's Ministry Director**. If interested, send resume to personnel@pgbckm.org



Congregational Health



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

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.

Sunset Forest:

Sunset Forest Baptist Church in Gastonia NC is looking for a **music ministry leader**. We are open to all styles and genres of music and any musical talent is a plus. This is a part-time position. We are also open to current music ministry students. Interested applicants please contact Pastor Jeff Hicks @ 704-913-2390 or email @ ranlochief@att.net

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

Westview:

Westview Baptist Church is currently seeking a **part-time Minister of Music/Worship Leader**. We believe that worshipping the Living God through song is one of the vital ways to ascribe worth to God. Please submit all resumes to the church office by email to wbcshelby@gmail.com or mail them to Westview Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby, NC 28152. The Personnel Committee will contact you for an interview.

All resumes may be submitted to the church office by email to wbcshelby@gmail.com or mail them to Westview Baptist Church, Personnel Committee, 500 Melody Lane, Shelby, NC 28152. The Personnel Committee will contact you for an interview.

Westwood Heights:

Westwood Heights Baptist Church at 650 Dellinger Rd/Shelby, NC is seeking a **part-time secretary, organist, and pianist**. For more information, please send a letter of interest to the following email: whbc.churchoffice@gmail.com

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 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.



GCCBA Annual Meeting
Sunday October 25th, 2026

Gardner Webb University
Tucker Student Center

4:00 pm Call to Order

Guest Speaker: Chuck Morrow, Director of Mission
Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association

5:30 pm Dismiss to Dinner

During dinner, we invite you to visit the various agencies that will be set up to share information & valuable resources. We hope you'll take a few moments to stop by, connect, and learn more!



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.

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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September

3– Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
7– GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED
8– Budget Team, GCCBA, 11:45 am
17– Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
Leadership Training, Salvation Church at Rankin Lake, 6:00 pm