

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
 Mullis 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

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Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

THE BEACON

Volume 68, Issue 2

February 2026

Time can change a lot, but many things remain the same. In 2016 my life looked a great deal different. I was pastoring in Gaston County after making the move from Kentucky. My kids were either in elementary school or preschool. My youngest had just been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder and in between therapy appointments and doctor's appointments, I tried to pastor my church and drive two bus routes every day to cover the cost of therapy.

I learned a lot that year. Sitting in waiting rooms. Talking with parents. Praying with them about their children whom they loved though they could not communicate with their parents. Talking about how to help them find the best services for their kids and their family. And tragically, discovering that most families of a special needs child struggle to find a church home. Churches rarely are equipped to handle special needs in a way that supports the family and helps them feel secure and relieved as they pursue Christ. I knew then that we had to do everything we could to make our church a welcoming place for families with special needs kids.

Interestingly, Cleveland County is no different than Gaston County. Scattered among the many people who are living, working, driving, and raising their kids here are families with children who cannot sit easily in classrooms, listen to traditional lessons or express their needs in ways that the average volunteer can understand. Statistics show that the number of special needs children in Cleveland County Schools is not only surprising, but that it is growing. Even more alarming is the reality that for every one of those kids, there is a family that needs support as well. Why can't that support be the church!?

As 2026 rolls on we look to February and hold our second annual Special Needs Conference on February 9th, at 6:30 PM at First Baptist Church Kings Mountain. As a parent of a special needs child, I am extremely excited about this event. Last year, we had Cortney from Awe & Wonder present on how to make your church and services friendlier to special needs kids and families. These practical tips were golden as our churches were able to make direct application of simple principles to help in this much needed area.

This year, we are blessed to partner with the organization *Joni and Friends*. Russ Duncan, our *Joni and Friends* representative will be guiding those in attendance through the Church Training Pathway that equips churches to design their specific approach to special needs ministry. Though you may only have one or no special needs children in your church, this training is a valuable tool to equip your church to engage an often-unseen population right in our county. Please make plans to join us on that night or to share this opportunity with your church staff, children's ministry leaders or volunteers so that we may partner together to support this population of families with the love of Christ.

Jason Ballard



Ministry Support



Monday, February 6th we will have a Special Needs Ministry Training at First Baptist Church in Kings Mountain. This training is being taught by the organization Joni & Friends so you will sign up through them at this link <https://joniandfriends.org/event/greater-cleveland-county-baptist-association-church-training-with-joni-and-friends/>

**Please note their sign up says the event is at our office, we are working to have this corrected the correct location in on the flyer below



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.gccba.org



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@gccba.org or by
scanning the QR code



SENIOR ADULT RALLY

Making Every Moment Matter

Tuesday March 17th, 2026

9:00 am-1:00 pm

Polkville Baptist Church
4214 Polkville Rd
Polkville, NC 28136



Free lunch
included



Vendor Fair, Music,
games, & engaging
speaker



RSVP by March 3rd
704-482-3472 or
katie@gccba.org

www.gccba.org





Pastoral Health



Ministers Conference

Monday, February 2, 2026
Lunch 11:30am, Program 12:00pm.
Jimmy Lancaster, West Regional Director
North Carolina Baptist Aging Ministry (NCBAM)

KM/Grover Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Carolina Crossing Restaurant on Thursday,
February 5th, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

will meet at the
Bulldog Quik Snak, Thursday,
November 19th, at 8:30 am.

Pastors Anniversaries for February:

Elizabeth:
Rit Varriale, 21 years
Lawndale:
Randy Willis, 3 years
KM First:
Chip Sloan, 38 years
New Bethel:
Carson Putnam, 5 years



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 Mo-saics, Mature Living, Guide Posts, & Angels on Earth magazines; No cassette or VHS tapes.

CHURCH STAFF MEMBERSHIP DISCOUNT

\$0 join fee & membership deduction

Valid at all Cleveland County Family YMCA branches

10% discount can be used with any membership type, excluding global

TO APPLY BRING A SIGNED DOCUMENT ON CHURCH LETTERHEAD STATING YOUR POSITION

Helping all people reach their God given potential in spirit, mind and body.

clevecoymca.org



Ministry Support



NEW DATE!



Children's Ministry Volunteer Training

Sunday March 22nd, 2026

1:30 Lunch Served

2:00-5:00 Training

Hope Community Church

1114 S Lafayette St Shelby

Please RSVP by scanning the QR code or calling 704-482-3472 or email katie@gccbba.org



Childcare will be provided for children ages 2-5



Session 1:

The Power of Praying for Your Children

Session 2:

3 Essential Tools for Kid's Ministry

Session 3:

Taking your Kid's Ministry from Good to Great

Session 4:

The 2 Most Important things in Kid's Ministry

"...then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind."

— Philippians 2:2



2026 **HECK-JONES** Offering

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR WMU NC GOAL: \$325,000 www.wmunc.org

SCAN ME



Renewed Spiritual Encouragement for Senior Adults

A monthly online gathering provided by NCBAM Care Villages



If you are interested in attending this online gathering at the GCCBA Office starting in February. Please contact Katie or Nicole.



Missions Partnerships



Upper Ohio Valley Mission Trip

We are excited to be partnering with the Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association for a mission trip July 4th-11th. We will be working with several church plants and established churches to do prayer walking, community outreach, VBS, block parties, etc. If you are interested in going on the trip, please contact Katie Harris for more information. The deadline to sign up along with a \$100 deposit is due February 16th.

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



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 Moody Shaffer
Manager of Chaplaincy and Faith Relations

BAPTIST RETIREMENT HOMES
FOUNDATION

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: December 2025

Food	17
Medicine	1
Power	<u>29</u>
Total Assisted Units:	47

As we all can tell there are many needs across our county and our assistance office volunteers work hard to help answer calls and help people with their needs. We do our best to spread out our resources so that we can help the most families with their immediate needs. Our normal guidelines are to help families once a year with utilities and once every four months with food. We also can occasionally help with medicine, dental work, or other various needs. We do not have funding to help with rent or hotel stays. If you ever have questions about what we help with or would like to cross reference a person who has come to your church for help please feel free to contact Katie Harris.



Congregational Health



Pray for churches who are seeking a pastor.

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



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!

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



Block Party Trailer

The schedule for the trailer fills up fast for the summer and fall 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 machines. After your event we would love to know the impact on the community you served, so please share your stories with us.

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, NC 28073

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.

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



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: 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@pqbcshelby.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.

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

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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Katie Harris
katie@gccbba.org

Office Administrator:
Nicole Mosley
nicole@gccbba.org



2— Minister's Conference, GCCBA, 11:30 am
5— Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
9— Special Needs, FBCKM, 6:30 pm
19— Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am