

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

Assistance Office:
704-481-9119

Uniting congregations in effective missions and ministries

THE BEACON

Volume 68, Issue 3

March 2026

In the world of ministry, there are difficult and dark struggles that pastors face. W.A. Criswell explained in his W.A. Criswell's Guidebook for Pastors (1980)

Truly, truly, the problems in the ministry are legion: social isolation, excessive demands on the part of the people, financial strains, administrative pressures, professional competition, psychological tensions, feelings of inadequacy, anxiety, anger, and ten thousand other demonic devices to destroy the effective work of the pastor.

Too often these "demonic devices" damage and derail the life and ministry of pastors causing harm to pastors, their families, and the churches they serve. Brian Croft and Ronnie Martin explain the cause of this damage in *The Unhurried Pastor* (2024) noting, "Unfortunately, pastors often get caught up in the overwhelming and unending pressures of the task of caring for others." For every church and theological institution, equipping pastors against such "devices" should be a priority because when we look at pastoral downfalls Croft and Martin explain in *The Unhurried Pastor* (2024), "A common thread connects every one of these tragedies—a neglect of personal soul care." Personal soul care refers to the practices that protect, enrich, and preserve the soul of the pastor as he labors to fulfill his calling to serve the church. Personal soul care flows from the pastor's personal, spiritual, and physical awareness of his challenges and shortcomings as well as training that prepares him to protect and enrich his soul as he spends his life in service to others.

These challenges can be great, and pastors need support to both assess their spiritual health and to address their spiritual weaknesses, but where can they turn for this kind of support? The GCCBA Pastoral Health Team is committed to providing encouragement and avenues for spiritual renewal for our pastors through major and ongoing events, along with a counseling partnership to strengthen our pastors. Encourage your pastor to lean on the resources of the GCCBA Pastoral Health Team.

On March 6th through the 8th, the GCCBA will hold its annual Pastors and Wives Retreat. Our focus this year will be on building a marriage that will sustain you through ministry. I want to ask you, whether your pastor is attending this event or not, to be in prayer for your pastor. Pray for the challenges that he will face as he prepares to preach each week. Pray for the difficulty of balancing his family and his calling to serve the church. Pray for his walk with the Lord to be the one thing that strengthens him for all the responsibilities that he will bear and the battles he will face.

Thoughts from Staff.....

Each month the GCCBA holds a minister's conference for all pastors and staff to attend on the first Monday of each month. At these events we feature a speaker or guest who will share important information to encourage our pastors. On March 2nd, we will welcome Jimmy Lancaster as our guest from the NC Baptist Aging Ministry to share how our pastors can better engage our seniors to reach their community for Christ. Encourage your pastor to attend this minister's conference and gain some needed encouragement to focus on his soul as well as the souls of others.

Jason Ballard

OFFICE CLOSED

Office Closed:

Afternoon of Monday, March 23, All Day March 24-25
for the Associational Missions Conference



Ministry Support



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@gccbba.org

www.gccbba.org



Bible Drill

The Associational
Bible Drill will be on
Sunday, March 22 at
Beaver Dam Baptist
at 3:00 pm!



Our Special Needs Ministry Training Part 2 is coming up in April. Even if you didn't make it to the first one you are welcome to come to Part 2. After this session you will walk away with a personalized ministry strategy for your church. We hope to see you on April 13th.



SPECIAL NEEDS Ministry Training

Monday April 13th @ 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.



For questions:
email:
katie@gccbba.org



Questions?
Contact Us!



704-482-3472



www.gccbba.org



Pastoral Health



Ministers Conference

Monday, March 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,
March 5th, at 8:30 am.

Lattimore Pastors Fellowship

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

Pastors Anniversaries for March:

New Hope:

Russ Bradley, 20 years

Westover:

Kevin Whittington, 12 years



Pray for these couples on their special day in March:

Plains View—Wayne and Catherine Key—1st

Zion—Will and Rebecca Haas—9th

Zoar—Jon and Adriene Jones—10th

Patterson Springs—Chad and Kelli Grigg—14th

Camps Creek – Steve and Debbie Durham—18th

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

the 

\$0 join fee & membership deduction

clevecoymca.org

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.



Community Engagement



The Food Roundup for the Baptist Children's Homes!

All Food collected in CLEVELAND COUNTY WILL STAY IN CLEVELAND COUNTY!! We now have 5 homes in our county. Please bring food and gift cards to the GCCBA Office by April 23, 2026!



When you are a part of the Food Roundup, you meet real needs and share Christ's love with North Carolina children who are hungry for more than a meal—they are hungry for hope!



Baptist Children's Homes of NORTH CAROLINA

FOOD ITEMS

- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- | Mac & cheese
- | Rice
- | Flour
- | Sugar (granulated & brown)
- Baking mixes (cake, brownie, muffin, Bisquick, pancake)
- | Cooking oil & sprays (vegetable, olive, shortening, Pam, Baker's Choice)
- | Cereal (cold & hot)
- | Canned fruits
- | Canned vegetables
- | Gravy mixes
- | Coffee, tea & hot cocoa
- Sauces (ketchup, BBQ, soy, Worcestershire, steak sauce, teriyaki, cheese, sweet & sour, hot sauce)
- Snack foods (sweet & savory-fruit snacks, jerky, pretzels, cheese crackers, etc.)

HOUSEHOLD & CLEANING SUPPLIES

- Laundry detergent
- Fabric softener/dryer sheets
- Trash bags (large & small)
- Household cleaners
- Paper towels
- Toilet paper
- Napkins
- Tissues (Kleenex)
- Paper & plastic tableware
- Zip-top bags (sandwich, snack, quart, gallon)

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS

- | Soap
- Toothbrushes
- | Lotion
- Baby wipes

OTHER ESSENTIALS

- Batteries (AA, AAA, C, D)

FINAL NOTES

Gift Cards are appreciated for buying perishables and items not received. (i.e. Wal-Mart, Sams Clubs, Food Lion, Lowes, Ingles, Piggly Wiggly). We can use all size cans. Some locations prefer #10 cans (family size). **IMPORTANT:** Please check for expired dates on food -- we cannot accept expired items. Please help our volunteer truck drivers by packing your church's donations in small, sturdy boxes. Pack like items together. Please do not pack chemicals with food.

The Week of Prayer March 1-8, 2026

The Week of Prayer for North American Missions is a special, focused time of prayer for Southern Baptist missionaries serving through the North American Mission Board and the people they serve. We invite you to join us this season of prayer March 1-8.

In addition to prayer, your generosity in giving to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering makes an eternal impact. When you give directly to this offering, 100 percent of your gifts support missionaries in North America.

The 2026 goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is \$80 million.



Save the Date:

2026 Church Without Walls August 7th & 8th. More information will be available soon.





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.

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:

Spaghetti sauce
spaghetti noodles
peanut butter
jelly
crackers
cereal



The pantry always needs everything, but the items listed are what we go through the fastest!

macaroni and cheese
Canned Meat

Toiletries: toilet paper, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, clothes

Compassion Ministry Report

Assistance Type: January 2026

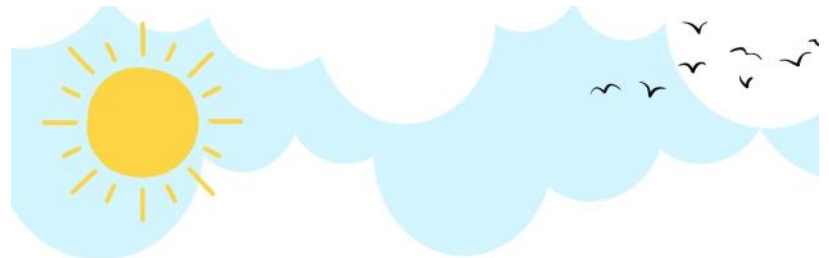
Food	12
Medicine	1
Other	2
Power	30
Total Assisted Units:	45



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.



Ministry Support



Senior Adult Spring Sing & Dinner on the Grounds

Thursday April 30th, 2026

9:30 am- 1:00 pm

Westwood Heights Baptist Church

Cost: \$5 person

Please register by Monday, April 20 by calling GCCBA 704-482-3472 or Teresa Edmonson. 704-300-4480





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, 2025 to Dec. 31, 2025. Please submit as soon as possible, reach out to Nicole Mosley with any questions!

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!



Reserve the Block Party Trailer for Your Next Outreach Event!

Our Block Party Trailer is a popular choice for community events, especially during the Spring and Summer—so be sure to book early. The trailer comes fully equipped with: Popcorn machine, Snow cone machine, Cotton candy machine, Games, Sound system. It includes all the supplies needed to operate the machines and only cost \$100 to rent. Call us today to reserve the trailer for your next outreach event.

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.

Dover Baptist Church is a loving, community-focused, Southern Baptist church in the area of Shelby, NC, that is poised to grow substantially in the coming years. The



Congregational Health



Bi-Vocational Pastor will serve as the spiritual shepherd and leader of the church, walking alongside the congregation in worship, care, and mission. Interested applicants may submit a resume and cover letter to doverbaptistapplications@gmail.com by May 1st.

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: Worship Ministry Team) or send a hard copy resume to: 1022 Oak Grove Road Kings Mtn., NC 28086.

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.

Ross Grove

Ross Grove is seeking a part-time **Church Administrative Assistant** to oversee daily church office operations and support the pastor, ministerial staff, congregation members, and the various committees of a growing church. While this role does not involve accounting, basic bookkeeping skills are preferred. The ideal candidate is a well-organized, detail-oriented professional with excellent communication and teamwork skills, experience in general administrative functions, and proficiency with computer systems, software, and office equipment. The position requires 25 hours per week at a starting rate of \$15-\$20 per hour, depending on skill and experience. Qualified candidates may email their resume and three letters of reference to personnel@rossgrove.org.

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



Sunday,
March
8th!

Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, Inc.
1175 Wyke Road
Shelby, NC 28150

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
SHELBY, NC 28150
PERMIT NO. 40
Return Service Requested



If you are not going to read the printed version of the newsletter, please call and have your name removed from the mailing list. We can add you to the email list, if you so desire.

THE BEACON

STAFF & EMAIL

Associational Missionary Strategist:
Jason Ballard
jason@gccbba.org

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

Office Administrator:
Nicole Mosley
nicole@gccbba.org



- 2**— Minister's Conference, GCCBA, 11:30 am
- 4**— Grover/KM Minister's Fellowship at Carolina Crossing, 8:30 am
- 6-8**—Annual Minister and Spouse Retreat at Ridgecrest
- 8**—Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17**—Senior Rally, Polkville, 9 am
- 19**—Lattimore Minister's Fellowship at Bulldog Quick Snack, 8:30 am
- 22**—Bible Drill, Beaver Dam, 3:00 pm
- 23- 25**—GCCBA OFFICE CLOSED