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accepted.

November 30, 2016

Program Features Traditional Choral Works, Old Time Music and Bluegrass Tunes

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—The Gardner-Webb University Chorale, under the director of GWU Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Morgan Soja, is hosting a concert Dec. 4 to benefit the food ministry of the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association in Shelby, N.C. The event will be at 3 p.m. at First Baptist Church, 120 N. Lafayette St., Shelby. Donations of canned goods, toiletries, non-perishable food items and clothing will be

"Feeding the hungry in Cleveland County is incredibly important," Soja notes. "As of 2014, almost 20 percent of the population lived below the poverty level, and over 18,000 families, including children and the elderly received funds or food assistance each month. First Baptist is one of our many area churches doing whatever they can to help those most in need. We want to be a part of that effort."

Members of the University Chorale held their first benefit concert last spring and have decided to host a similar event each semester. "The University Chorale is a group on Gardner-Webb's campus that wants to live our motto, 'Pro Deo Et Humanitate' (For God and Humanity)," Soja explains. "We wanted to be able to give back to the community in ways that would be tangible and real for those who are less fortunate."

The program features old time music, bluegrass tunes, spirituals, traditional choral works, hymns and Christmas songs. In addition to the GWU Chorale, performers include students from the vocal studio of GWU Instructor of Music Jondra Harmon and the GWU Old Time Ensemble, a group of students playing fiddle, banjo, guitar and string bass, directed by GWU Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Bruce Moser.

Through its network of churches, the Greater Cleveland County Baptist Association, 1175 Wyke Road, Shelby, provides assistance to needy families in Cleveland County, N.C. The Association's mission is 'Uniting Congregations in Effective Missions and Ministries.' For more information, visit gccba.org.

Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University's purpose is to advance the Kingdom of God through Christian higher education by preparing graduates for professional and personal success, instilling in them a deep commitment to service and leadership, and equipping them for well-rounded lives of lasting impact, Pro Deo et Humanitate (For God and Humanity).