

THE NAVIGATOR

TAR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 4

APRIL 2024

194th ANNUAL SPRING MEETING TO BE HELD APRIL 22ND IN SPRING HOPE

The 194th Annual Spring Meeting of the Tar River Baptist Association will be held on Monday, April 22nd, at Holly Grove Baptist Church in Spring Hope, NC. Registration will begin at 6:00, Ministry Partners will introduce themselves beginning at 6:15, and the meeting will be called to order at 6:30. Professor Ronjour Locke, preaching professor at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, will deliver the annual sermon. The Associational Leadership Team and Acting Associational Mission Strategist will also deliver reports and updates on the restructure process. Pre-registration is open now at <https://forms.gle/Prx2BrgN8HkpaHrA9>.



PUERTO RICO VISION TRIP AUGUST 17-23

A team from TRBA will travel to San Juan, Puerto Rico this Summer, to serve at the NAMB Send Relief Ministry Center. This trip will hopefully be the first of many for TRBA churches, as we work to establish cross-cultural partnerships. The team will mainly help to repair and rebuild homes and churches, and may also help to prepare for hurricane season. Team members may also aid in outreach through prayer-walking and food distribution.

There are a limited number of team member slots still available. The total cost of the trip, with airfare, lodging, and food, is \$1000/person. TRBA will offer 50% (\$500) off the cost of up to two members of any TRBA church, as space allows. \$250 is due at reservation, and the remaining \$250 is due by June 1. For more information or to begin the reservation process, contact Caleb Gibson at 252-382-4393 or by email at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com.

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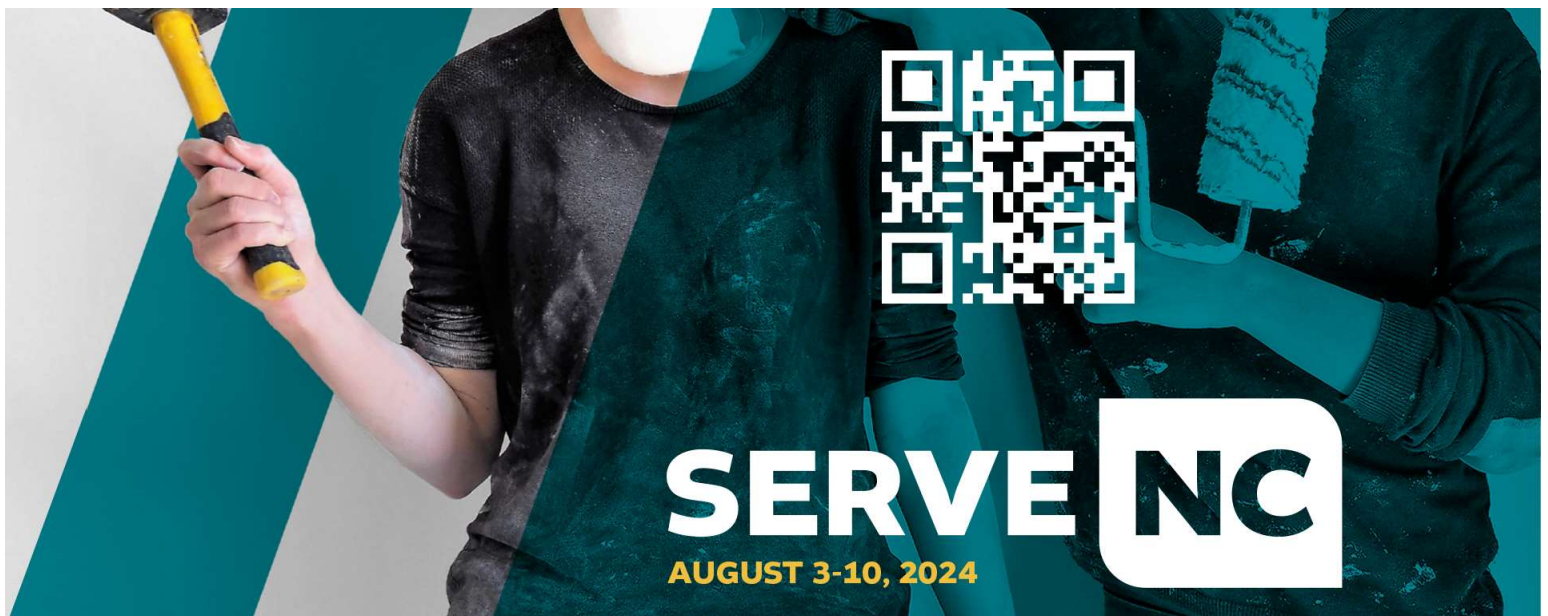
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OPEN FORUM WITH THE ASSOCIATIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

In advance of the Spring Meeting, the Associational Leadership Team will be hosting an open forum and luncheon on Thursday, April 4th, at noon. This open forum will provide an opportunity for you to hear updates from the ALT on the restructure process, see some early draft documents, and share your feedback with the team. Lunch will be provided. Registration is requested for lunch. Register now at <https://forms.gle/Vt2has2vvvnQ8JL78>.



735 CHURCHES SIGNED UP TO SERVE NC SO FAR

Whether it's painting a school, cleaning up a yard, serving meals to those in need or building a wheelchair ramp, ServeNC is an opportunity for every NC Baptist church to love its community in Jesus' name through service projects. NC Baptists and Baptists on Mission are challenging every church to commit to one week of being on mission together and displaying the gospel to those in need, August 3-10, 2024. Pick a day and a project in your community, and let's ServeNC together!

To register, download resources, and order ServeNC tee shirts, visit <https://ncbaptist.org/servenc> today. We will also have an opportunity for you to register at the Spring Meeting! If you need help identifying needs in your community, reach out to Caleb today at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com.

TAR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION | 92 NC HIGHWAY 56 EAST LOUISBURG NC 27549
TARRIVERBAPTIST.ORG | CALEB@TARRIVERBAPTIST.COM | 919-496-7172 / 252-382-4393

BAPTISMS UP 41% IN NC BAPTIST CHURCHES FROM 2022 TO 2023

NC Baptists published some incredibly encouraging statistics last week, announcing that baptism numbers are up 41% across the state – in spite of a 2% drop in completed Annual Church Profiles! In 2022, NC Baptist churches reported 11,409 baptisms. In 2023, that number rose to 16,060!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, April 4th
3:00 PM

The Associational Leadership Team will host an open forum on Thursday, April 4th at the TRBA office. This will be an opportunity to hear an update from the ALT and ask any questions in advance of the annual Spring Meeting.

Monday, April 22nd
6:00 PM

The 194th Annual Spring Meeting of the Tar River Association. Registration will begin at 6:00, Ministry Partners will introduce themselves at 6:15, and the meeting will begin at 6:30.

Tuesday, May 7th
9:30 AM

The NC Baptists Reconstruct Conference is for healthy churches and denominational partners looking for strategic ways to help support struggling churches in their area. This year, the Reconstruct Conference is being hosted by Faith Youngsville. To learn more and register, visit <https://ncbaptist.org/events/reconstruct-conference>.

Saturday, May 25
5:00 PM

We are excited to announce that TRBA will be hosting a Pastor/Staff and Spouse dinner on Saturday, May 25th. More details coming soon!

A NOTE FROM CALEB GIBSON, ACTING MISSIONS STRATEGIST

If I can be of assistance to your church in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me! You can reach me by email at caleb@tarriverbaptist.com or by call or text at 252-382-4393. I would love to meet with you and/or your church to talk about ways that Tar River Baptist Association can assist in community demographics studies, church revitalization, and creating gospel partnerships.

If you would like to contribute a story or article for next month's The Navigator, please let me know. We want to celebrate what God is doing among the Tar River Baptist Association of Churches!