

THE NAVIGATOR

TAR RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ISSUE 3

MARCH 2024

2nd ANNUAL RENEWAL EVENT TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH

RENEWAL is an annual event at Joyner Park that is hosted by local churches who want to see their neighbors find new life in Jesus Christ, the only one who gives true and lasting renewal. This event happens rain or shine and consists of a time of inspiring music, personal stories of renewal, and encouraging words of hope. This year's event will be held on Sunday, March 17th from 4-6 PM. You can find more information at <https://www.weneedrenewal.com>.

R · E · N · E · W · A · L

WeNeedRenewal.com

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 | 4-6 PM | Rain or Shine



SPRING MEETING LOCATION, TIME, AND SPEAKER

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>.

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PUERTO RICO PARTNERSHIP – VISION TRIP PLANNED

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. If interest warrants and space is filled, a second trip may be planned for the Spring of 2025.



589 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. If you need help discovering needs in your community, contact Caleb Gibson or Susan Peoples, who will serve as TRBA's advocates for ServeNC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, March 7th
3:00 PM

The next Associational Leadership Team Meeting will be Thursday March 7th at the TRBA office. Any member of a TRBA church is invited to attend and encouraged to participate in the discussion as we continue restructuring toward the future.

Sunday, March 17th
4:00 PM

The second annual RENEWAL event at Joyner Park in Wake Forest will be held, rain or shine, on Sunday, March 17th, from 4:00 to 6:00 PM. This will be a time of uplifting music, messages, and stories.

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>.

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!

4 WAYS BIVOCATIONAL MINISTRY IS GOOD FOR MY SOUL

contributed by Nathaniel Williams, Pastor at Cedar Rock First Baptist Church

I am a bivocational pastor, and statistics suggest I'm not alone. Lifeway Research estimates that 26 percent of all pastors have another vocation in addition to ministry.

As a bivocational pastor, striking the right balance between family, ministry, and work is often challenging. I always have more tasks to accomplish, more things to do, and more people to meet with. But despite the challenges, I'm immensely grateful that I am bivocational. Bivocational ministry has been good for my soul – for a handful of reasons.

1. I have to submit to others.

It's tempting for pastors to get big heads, especially when they serve in traditional churches (like mine) with one pastor. But at work, I have to submit to others in authority over me. This practice of submission is good for my soul.

2. I am less tempted to find my value and worth in ministry.

We pastors are tempted to find our identity in our churches. When things go well, we feel good. When things go poorly, we feel like a failure. But working outside the church gives me a different perspective. I have other responsibilities and interests, so I am less tempted to find my worth in others' appraisal of my ministry – or how many people attended worship last week.

3. I have friendships outside the congregation.

I dearly love the people in my congregation. One of my core ministry convictions is that church must be a family, and my church has been that family to me. But, for better or worse, my vocation as a pastor colors our relationship. At work, I get to form friendships with people who don't consider me their pastor. They don't look to me for spiritual guidance or counsel. This, too, is good for my soul.

4. Working outside the church gives me a creative outlet.

Like you, I have many interests and skills. Working in these other ways gives me an outlet to use those skills to the glory of God. Not only that, my workplace experience sharpens those skills, and I can then use them to the benefit of the church.

So, bivocational ministry can be challenging, but I'm grateful for this season in my life. And if you find yourself in such a situation, be encouraged that God can use it for your good and his glory.

This article was originally published by the SEBTS Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership. You can visit the Center for Preaching and Pastoral Leadership at <https://www.pastorscenter.org>.