



## **A NEW MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FOR TAR RIVER BAPTIST CHURCHES**

This is the first issue of a newly updated *The Navigator*, a monthly newsletter for Tar River Baptist Churches. This issue is just a small sampling of future newsletters, which will provide regular updates on associational activities, share stories celebrating the work of God in Tar River churches, and offer insights on church and ministry life in Tar River, from pastors and ministry leaders in Tar River Baptist Churches. To contribute, email [caleb@tarriverbaptist.com](mailto:caleb@tarriverbaptist.com).

## **TRBA CHURCHES SERVE CHILDREN, FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS**

Thanks in large part to the support of member churches and generous donors like Batchelor's Toy Run, TRBA was able to assist 11 churches in serving 269 children in 2023. Since 1990, Tar River Baptist Association has served over 5,000 families and 14,000 children in need of assistance at Christmas. Providing presents for children at Christmas provides churches with the opportunity to build a presence in their local community and to establish partnerships with local schools and organizations. Providing these presents also provides an open door for gospel conversations with parents as well as school counselors and social workers. Thank you for faithfully supporting this important work!

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH NC BAPTISTS TO PROVIDE COHORT FOR PASTORS**

In partnership with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, TRBA will be hosting a pastor cohort, led by Dr. Sandy Marks, NC Baptists Church Revitalization & Pastoral Ministry Strategist. This cohort will focus on developing a pastoral vision, as Dr. Marks will walk pastors through a framework for their lives and ministries. The cohort will meet monthly at 10:00 AM at the TRBA office; meeting dates will be January 30th, February 13th, March 19th, April 9th, and May 14th. There is no cost, but registration is requested. Contact Caleb Gibson at [caleb@tarriverbaptist.com](mailto:caleb@tarriverbaptist.com) for more information.

## **VISION TRIP PLANNING FOR PUERTO RICO PARTNERSHIP**

Plans are being made for a vision trip to the North American Mission Board Ministry Center in Puerto Rico this Summer. Trip dates and cost will be determined soon. Scholarships will be available for churches with no established cross-cultural partnership. If you would be interested in participating in this vision trip, contact [caleb@tarriverbaptist.com](mailto:caleb@tarriverbaptist.com). An initial interest meeting will be held at the Tar River Baptist Association office later this Spring.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 AM

Tar River Baptist Association will be partnering with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department to assist in providing chaplaincy services and a Chaplain Support Team for Franklin County. Opportunities may include on-call chaplains for department staff on-call chaplains for inmates at the Franklin County Jail, a chaplain support team, and livestreaming worship services for inmates. An interest meeting will be held at the TRBA office on Tuesday, January 9th, at 9:00 AM.

Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>  
3:00 PM

The TRBA Associational Leadership Team (ALT) will meet at the TRBA office on Thursday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 3:00 PM. Members of any TRBA church are welcome to attend the open session. If you have questions, concerns, or comments for the ALT, you can email [alt@tarriverbaptist.com](mailto:alt@tarriverbaptist.com) to contact a member of the ALT directly.

Friday & Saturday  
January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>

A group of pastors and lay leaders from around Franklin County will be gathering at the TRBA office on Friday & Saturday, January 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, for a men's discipleship weekend. For details, contact Mike Anderson at [fiddlemakermike@gmail.com](mailto:fiddlemakermike@gmail.com) or Tony Capehart at [wmcapehart@gmail.com](mailto:wmcapehart@gmail.com).

Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 AM

The first Pastors Cohort meeting with Dr. Sandy Marks will be held at the TRBA office on Tuesday, January 30<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM. This cohort will serve pastors and aspiring pastors well, as Dr. Marks will walk participants through an overview of the Vision Frame.

### 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](mailto: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 other gospel partnerships.