

**TRI-COUNTY SOUTHERN
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**

PO Box 370 239 Downing Street
Nixa, MO 65714
Phone: (417) 725-8825 Fax: (417) 725-8835

STAFF

DR. PHILLIP SHUFORD, Director of Missions
phillip@tcsba.com 417-597-0084 (cell)

REV. BOB LONG, Associate Director of Missions
bob@tcsba.com 417-463-6547 (cell)

DEBBIE HARTWELL, Ministry Assistant
debbie@tcsba.com 417-725-8825 (office)

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - noon & 1:00—4:00 pm
Friday: Office Closed; Other Hours by Appointment

«AddressBlock»

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Permit #33

Nixa, MO 65714

Return Service Requested

Tri-County Baptist Association is connecting churches with each other and with the Great Commission. Contact us about speaking in your church about what God is doing through local missions!

connect with Tri-County
Phone: 417-725-8825 Fax: 417-725-8835
www.tcsba.com



Tri County Southern
Baptist Association

Around Tri-County

help us get your news out by emailing debbie@tcsba.com or calling at (417) 725-8825



**Ministry Appreciation
DINNER**

ALL PASTORS, ELDERS, DEACONS, MINISTRY ASSISTANTS, WORSHIP,
YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S LEADERS, AND THEIR SPOUSES ARE WELCOME.

**NOVEMBER 27
6:30-8:30 PM**

AT FIRST BAPTIST OZARK
CHILDCARE AVAILABLE UP TO 6TH GRADE

RSVP

BY NOVEMBER 14

TCSBA.COM | 417.725.8825 | DEBBIE@TCSBA.COM

\$10

PER PERSON
DONATION
APPRECIATED

COMING UP

Pastor/Staff Prayer Fellowship Breakfasts:

Village Inn Ozark 8 am: 10/19

Bob Evans Branson 8 am: 10/26

We'll not meet in November or December!

Worship Leaders Huddle: FBC Branson 11/9, 12 pm.

TCBA Administrative Team: TCBA office, 11/9, 11:30 am .

TCBA Executive Board Meeting: TCBA office, 11/13, 11:00 am,

Ministry Appreciation Christmas Dinner: FBC Ozark, 11/27, 6:30 pm, .

TCBA offices closed: November 22-24 for Thanksgiving holiday.

STAFF CHANGES

Cedar Ridge Baptist Church: Pastor Mike Keeter retired after 37 years at CRBC.

FBC Clever: Luke Harding was called as Lead Pastor.

FBC Kimberling City: James Talley (associate pastor) was called as pastor to Providence Baptist Church, New Bloomfield, MO. Sean Gasper (student pastor at FBCKC) became the church's associate pastor.

Pray for our churches between pastors: FBC Chadwick, Selmore, Cedar Ridge.

Thank you for giving to local missions through Tri-County!

Tri-County's finances are professionally managed by Miller Management/Good Faith Accounting Partners.

Financial Report Through August 2023:
Budgeted: \$181,719; Receipts: \$201,698.47
Expenses: \$194,024

GIVE ONLINE : [TCSBA.COM/GIVE](https://tcsba.com/give)

"They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God." Philippians 4:18



Fall 2023

missionupdate

Tri-County Baptist Association | a Missouri Ozarks family of churches



GETTING BLESSED; BEING A BLESSING: Tri-County Baptist Association's 48th Annual Meeting and Church Family Worship .

Believers from 21 churches spread across Taney, Stone and Christian Counties gathered on October 1 at Real Life Church Hollister for Tri-County Baptist Association's 48th Annual Meeting and Church Family Worship. Messengers from the churches heard how the Lord is working through the Association, approved our 2024 spending plan and leadership, and voted to enter into a missions partnership with People of God Baptist Church in Mexico. Real Life Church hosted in an excellent and gracious fashion. Many sensed a special spirit that night. **"Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"**



THE SAINTS ASSEMBLED (left): Believers from 21 churches from 3 counties worship together.

POWERFUL PREACHING (right): Dr. John Yeats brings a Spirit-empowered message.

Before He ascended to the Father, the Lord Jesus gave His Church the task of making disciples and being His witnesses "in Jerusalem, all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The Southern Baptist churches in our corner of Missouri--specifically Christian, Stone and Taney Counties--joined forces 48 years ago as the Tri-County Baptist Association, to do what the Savior has commanded us to do, in the Jerusalem/Judea part of that command.

We're not forced to do it; no denominational hierarchy tells our churches what to do or how to do it. On the contrary, under the Spirit's leadership we pool our resources and work together to extend God's Kingdom in our communities and beyond. That's what Tri-County is. We're not a denomination. We're a family and a network of churches in the Ozarks. We're a channel through which our churches help each other do the work God has called them to do.

Tri-County exists to encourage, assist and resource our churches to fulfill the Great Commission. And here's a true statement: Our churches' work is based on a PROMISE (Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my Church"); but Tri-County's work is based on PERMISSION: our Association can only move forward by the willing participation of our member churches.

Brothers and sisters, while the Lord tarries may our watchword and our catch phrase be: **FORWARD FOR JESUS!**



Phillip Shuford
Director of Missions

encouraging, assisting and resourcing our churches to fulfill the Great Commission

Tri-County Ministry Updates

This is what working together to extend God's Kingdom looks like in Christian, Stone and Taney Counties! More info: tcsba.com

Collegiate Ministry

The College of the Ozarks is a one-of-a-kind mission field in our backyard! Young people from all over the world come to CofO to prepare for their future careers. Tri-County churches have a unique opportunity to help shape the next generation of our nation's leaders in the image of Christ through Baptist Collegiate Ministry at CofO (formerly BSU). The key for us to be able to do that is a leader to head up that effort, and Tri-County is accepting applications for our next campus missionary to CofO. To view the ministry description, visit our website tcsba.com. Help us get the word out, and help us pray!

Disaster Relief

People in crisis are often more open to the Gospel. Tri-County's Disaster Relief ministry is making it possible for people from our churches to be a blessing to those in crisis due to disasters that strike their homes and communities. TCBA owns two well-equipped trailers for Disaster Relief work—one for flood recovery and one where chainsaws are needed.



In 2023, we are in a rebuilding phase for our volunteer teams. Consider how God can use YOU to bring “help, hope and healing!” There will be four trainings in 2024 across Missouri, and when the opportunity arises, let the Lord use you to be a blessing to others!

Partnership Ministry Grants

NO Tri-County church should have to say, “We'd like to do this thing for the Lord, but we can't afford it!” Tri-County is blessed with a unique way to come alongside our churches as they reach their communities with the Gospel: partnership ministry grants. Any Tri-County church can request funds to help make their vision for ministry possible. Mission gifts to TCBA's general budget and designated accounts are pooled and ministry grant funds are distributed as available. It's a way all contributing Tri-County churches can be part of church-based, Kingdom-extending ministries all across our three counties. From October 2022-September 2023, TCBA has been able to assist churches in all three counties in the amount of \$7,550. For more information visit our website tcsba.com.

Resources Available to Our Churches



TCBA's Evangelistic Block Party Trailer is an amazing resource available to all Tri-County churches! For a modest usage fee of \$50, TCBA churches have use of a large bounce house, small bounce house, snow-cone machine, popcorn machine, carnival games, portable sound system, pop-up tents, tables, chairs and a portable generator.

In addition to the block party trailer, these resources are available to TCBA churches—free of charge—to use for church and outreach events: snow-cone machine, popcorn machine, cotton candy machine, bubble-making machine, and a giant inflatable movie screen. Contact TCBA office at 417-725-8825 to reserve.

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.
Acts 1:8

VBS Training and Support

In 2023, 3,513 people participated in Vacation Bible School in Tri-County churches. For many churches, Vacation Bible School is their #1 evangelistic outreach effort of the year. TCBA's Vacation Bible School ministry's goal is to assist our churches with their evangelistic outreach by providing leader training, resource sharing and financial assistance to member churches in Christian, Stone and Taney Counties. TCBA assists our churches do VBS through leader training, networking our churches together for resource sharing (like decorations), and financial assistance.



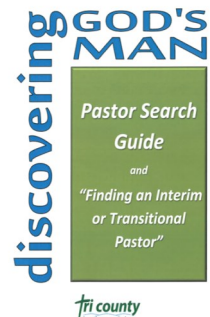
Get a jump start! Scan for info on Lifeway's 2024 VBS!

UPCOMING VBS DATES

1/22/24: VBS Directors' Preview
7:00 pm @ TCBA Office
3/25/24: Tri-County VBS Training
5:30-8:30 pm @ FBC Nixa

Pastor Search Assistance

One of the most difficult times a church can face is when they find themselves without a pastor. TCBA assists churches that are “between pastors” find the man God has called to lead them by: Helping churches find supply preachers and interim pastors; training and consulting with pastor search teams; and receiving resumes from potential pastors and distributing them to churches. Tri-County has developed a guidebook with information compiled from many different sources for pastor search teams' use, available for download at tcsba.com/resources/resources-for-church-leadership.



2023 Wells Ministry Scholarship awards

The Apostle Paul told Timothy: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.* Tri-County's Jim and Judy Wells Ministry Scholarship assists folks from our churches who are actively studying to prepare themselves for ministry. Scholarship recipients from the 2023-2024 academic year:

Justin Chapman (Sojourn Church Nixa); Liberty University (on-line); **Rev. Michael O'Sullivan** (Keystone Baptist Church), Dallas Theological Seminary (on-line); **Rev. Joseph Sisneros** (Jamesville Baptist Church), Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary (on-line); **Evan Walsh** (The Way Baptist Church), Oklahoma Baptist University (on-line).

More information and application can be found at www.tcsba.com. Application deadline 2024-2025 academic year: March 31, 2024.

Year-end gifts to build the scholarship and help more people train for ministry can be sent to TCBA, PO Box 370 Nixa 65714 or tcsba.com/give.

Ministry Training/Tri-County Bible Institute

The Tri-County Bible Institute is equipping our local church leaders for ministry in their churches. TCBI provides in-person, practical training in an “iron sharpens iron” atmosphere. Tri-County provides a 50% registration discount for TCBA church members, thanks to our churches' generous Associational gifts. In the past year, we've taught three great courses: New Testament Theology; Formation for Christian Ministry; and I Corinthians. Our next class will begin January 8 (class to be announced shortly). For more information: tcsba.com and click on “Ministries.”

Tri-County Summer Camps

Every summer in early June, dozens of adults from TCBA churches mobilize and volunteer their time and energy for 79 intense hours of discipleship and sharing Jesus with children and young people from churches across our three counties. This year, a total of 251 people participated in Tri-County's Summer Camps at Baptist Hill Assembly in Mt Vernon, including 167 children and young people and 84 adult volunteers. It's an amazing week where we love on kids in the name of Jesus. It's OUR camp—the program, schedule, and activities are all OF, BY and FOR our churches. Our churches' generous gifts to Tri-County help us keep costs low so that every kid who wants to go to camp, can go.

Thank you, churches, for sending your kids! If your church has kids but hasn't sent them to camp, just know: God is blessing Tri-County's camps and we'd love to see your kids with us on “the Hill” next year! If you're an adult and are interested in being part of “the cheapest mission trip you'll ever go on,” come join us—we need you! **Camp dates for next year are June 3-6, 2024.**



This year's theme verse was Luke 10:18-19 “And he said to them, “I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.” LEFT: Spark Kids Camp (grades 3—6) RIGHT: Ignite Youth (grades 7—10)



Leadership Training

Sometimes church leaders need a little guidance and outside wisdom as they fulfill the work God has given them. That's why Tri-County offers training sessions that equip our churches' ministry leaders be better prepared to serve the Lord and their church. In March 2023, Tri-County partnered with Miller Management Systems, a Christian accounting firm, to bring a two-hour course called “God's Money: Building Trust and Credibility Through Financial Integrity.” Topics covered were: the alarming facts surrounding current fraud in ministry; why fraud happens in ministry; the biblical rationale for integrity in finances; and best practices to help deter fraud and build credibility.



Pastoring the Pastors

Pastors are among the greatest gifts God has given His church. They bring us God's word, counsel us, lead us, and provide an example of godly living. They are also human! Tri-County makes an effort to minister to those who minister to us through encouragement, prayer, an open ear, and (sometimes) a shoulder to cry on. Among the many ways we do that is giving our pastors opportunities to get together so they can fellowship with like-minded colleagues, pray for each other and enjoy a nice meal (Tri-County's treat). Tri-County also makes it possible for pastors and their families to receive sound Christian counseling when needed. Let's love our pastors!



Encouraging Our Churches, Exalting Our Savior



For the second year in a row, TCBA sponsored the LIFT HIM UP! CELEBRATION the week of Easter. Five speakers spoke in five different churches to celebrate our Savior and help prepare those congregations for a glorious Easter Sunday. Churches were encouraged in their ministries, souls came into the Kingdom and God worked in His people's hearts. We are looking to expand LIFT HIM UP in 2024. Stay tuned!

LIFE Outreach Initiative in Stone County

Tri-County is partnering with the Missouri Baptist Convention and Real Encounter Outreach to bring the LIFE Outreach Initiative to communities in Stone County April 21-24, 2024. We'll be doing evangelism and discipleship training to our churches leading up to a series of gatherings in schools across Stone County that will encourage young people and adults to follow Jesus. Real Encounter Outreach is made up of professional athletes and ministers in the area of Moto Stunting, Street Bike Stunting and BMX Bike Stunt Team. Their outreach strategy uses action sports and extreme sports to connect with all ages of people. The motorcycle stunt show is the platform, but Jesus Christ has center-stage! More information coming soon!

encouraging, assisting and resourcing our churches to fulfill the Great Commission