

For those who Seek the Path of Biblical Higher Education to Lead and Serve our Communities

President's Desk

Dr. Jack R. Finch



Like many of my generation who grew up in this area, when I was a child I attended what is now commonly referred to as Vacation Bible School. For me, Rockwood Missionary Baptist Church was where I attended VBS for two weeks every summer.

The teachers and workers dedicated themselves to teaching us so that we could learn about Jesus. God used many of these amazing people to bring me to Him through salvation when I was twelve years old. One of them was Pastor Homer Webb. I remember his giving an invitation for me to come and ask God to forgive me of my sins. I also remember the first Bible verse I ever learned and wow...what a verse!!! It was John 3:16. To this day, whenever I send correspondence I reference that verse as part of my signature.

Tri-State Bible College strives now as it has always done to teaching Biblical truth and prayerfully worked to be the salt and light that our Savior commands, regardless of the season of the year. We covet your prayers and continued financial support as we strive to bring His truth to the world by the training of His workers.

Our door is always open and we here at Tri-State Bible College would enjoy your stopping by to say hello.

2017 Graduates

James M. Ferguson Jr. — BA

Christina Marie May — BA

Marlene S. Rector — AA

Dr. Matt Shamblin

Commencement Speaker

Dr. Matt Shamblin earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Liberty University, a Master of Arts in Religion, a Master of Divinity, and a Master of Sacred Theology from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary, and a PhD in Leadership from Tennessee Temple University (now Piedmont International University.)



He is currently Senior Pastor at Rose Hill Baptist Church in Ashland, Kentucky. Previous to Rose Hill, Dr. Shamblin served on staff as Director of Evangelism for the West Virginia Convention of Southern Baptists, First Vice President and has served in several other areas within Southern Baptists life. He has served churches in both Virginia and West Virginia as staff member, Interim Pastor, Senior Pastor and through multiple ministry development presentations concerning leadership, evangelism and church revitalization.

The instruction of the Apostle Paul to Timothy is the passion and heartbeat of Dr. Shamblin's ministry: "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction" (2 Timothy 4:2.) He has taught at Tri-State Bible College for two years in both the undergraduate and graduate program and is invested in new course and program development.

A native of West Virginia, Dr. Shamblin and his wife are passionate advocates for Foster care and Adoption, having two beautiful daughters that were graciously brought by the Lord to their family through adoption.

CONTINUE YOUR BIBLICAL EDUCATION. TSBC is now accepting applications for Summer enrollment. Resident, resident modular, and online classes available. Associate, Bachelor, and Master of Arts Degree. Single classes and certificate available for non-degree seeking students. Prior coursework evaluated for transfer credit.

Summer semester begins the week of May 15. The schedule is available and registration is open. Call 740.377.2520 ext. 10 for details.

TSBC Preparing for ABHE Evaluation Visits

Tri-State Bible College is now in the process of preparing for its evaluation visits from the Association for Biblical Higher Education, in order to reaffirm the college's accreditation status.

Federal (and often state) financial aid is available only to students who enroll at a college, university, or other institution of higher learning that has been accredited by an accreditation organization that has been reviewed and approved by the United States' Department of Education (USDE). The USDE must keep watch to make sure that all federal student financial aid funds are being used for effective and worthwhile academic institutions and programs that are giving students a high quality education.

Additionally, most potential employers review a job applicant's educational history to make sure that each one has received his or her education from a college, university, or program with accreditation. If the degree, diploma, or certificate comes from a school without accreditation, it could hurt the student's chances for future employment.

It is common for states to require that a college, university, or program be accredited when allowing students to acquire state licensure.

To that end, accrediting organizations do periodic evaluations of institutions of higher education, to make sure they maintain the high standards their students deserve, and thus, maintain the college's accreditation status.

For Tri-State Bible College, the time has come for that evaluation-- an 18-month process which necessitates that the college to do an intense Self-Study to gather all the documentation that the ABHE will require.

TSBC's Board of Directors, Administration, Faculty and Staff are all co-operating to make our evaluation successful, but prayers from all those who support the important mission of the school are highly coveted!

For further information about the accreditation process, please feel free to contact Self-Study Coordinator, Sandra.Duncan@tsbc.edu or TSBC President, Jack.Finch@tsbc.edu.

Some of Akron's Bright Spots

By Dr. Alicia J. Malone, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs

As we slowly enter the spring season, the students at TSBCN are sincerely engaged. There is a spirit of comradery such as I have not seen in 6 semester years. The students are actively, excitedly challenged and challenging the professor's. One of our students travelled with the Faculty of South Point to Israel a few months ago. He is now on fire for missions and will soon be going to Honduras. Wow, does he fall in the category of our mission, "Training Faithful Servants for Tomorrow-Today." This semester years Chapel services have included our senior students "breaking the bread of life." Again, they are walking "faithfully for tomorrow – today."

Many of our students are sophomores and juniors and are actively spread throughout the community providing Christian Service. There is an excitement that fills our additional location. Praise God. Though we are few in number, the students continue to assist me in sponsoring recruitment efforts within the city. TSBC has been proclaimed on our local Radio Station WAKR with a subsequent "voice of proclamation coming on April 5, 2017." Yes, we are getting our instructors involved in recruitment and on that date, Dr. Robert Golson and 2nd year student Todd D'Michele

will share from an Instructors and Student perspective. *Did I mention that there is a sweet spirit, prevailing over TSBCN? If I didn't, let me share with you now, there is!*

We are looking forward to expanding our student population through the recruitment efforts. We believe God will supply! Some students and faculty are preparing for Summer school, and looking forward to the Fall Semester. 2018 will bring a few graduates in which everyone, North and South can be proud of "Training Faithful Servants for Tomorrow-Today!"



Library at North Campus

New Circle of Churches Member

Big Branch Church is a non-denominational church located on Big Branch Road in Chesapeake, Ohio. The church was originally established in 1890. Randy Henderson currently serves as Senior Pastor. Assisting Pastor Randy and serving as Youth Director is Michael Wright, graduate of Liberty University. Pastors Randy & Michael are the first full-time staff members in the history of Big Branch Church. In 2013 the church began construction on a new facility to meet the needs of the thriving congregation. A focus on reaching the lost with the gospel and God blessing that faithfulness preceded the move into the new facility in the fall of 2014.

Big Branch Church exists to connect people with Jesus and His mission. The leadership and people of Big Branch are committed foremost to the Word of God and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Three brief statements reflect the vision and values of the church: "Saved People Serve People, Rescued People Rescue People, and Blessed People Bless People." As of 2016, Big Branch adopted the phrase "Not I, but Christ" to serve as a continual reminder of how together, empowered by the Spirit of God, the people of Big Branch can fulfill God's purposes in the community and world to reach those in need of Savior and disciple them to do the same. First impressions of the people of Big Branch are regularly described as loving, friendly, and welcoming. Big Branch Church is a grace place. Unashamedly, the pastor, staff, and congregation are committed to dispelling the false hope of religion and legalism and extend arms wide open to people of all kinds. The church consists of but is not limited to children,

young adults, middle-aged adults, senior citizens-blue collars, white collars, schoolteachers, as well as recovering drug addicts.

Ministries of Big Branch Church are widespread and strategically focused. Sunday morning worship gatherings offer a hospitable environment where people are loved, the worship is spirit-filled and the gospel is preached. A nursery is provided for the little ones as well as Tree House- the children's church program. On Wednesday evenings, Big Branch Youth Ministry (BBYM) gathers for an engaging and relevant teen worship experience. In addition, children meet for age appropriate instruction in Kids 4 Christ while adults meet in various groups for small group bible studies. Big Branch is involved in a host of outreach ministries including Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) in the local schools where nearly 200 children gather weekly for prayer and devotions in the Junior High and High School. Several invest in the Street Ministry of Huntington, WV, serving breakfast and a brief message each Saturday for the homeless and prayer with those in need. Christian Rodders and Racers (CRA) is a missionary organization supported by Big Branch that hosts an extraordinarily unique Hot Rod Camp for young men. Men from the church as well as other churches around the country join eight to ten teenagers to invest a week of fellowship, testimony, bible study, and evangelism all while building a street rod in just six days. These are but a few of the ministries involving the people of Big Branch Church. Additional Information can be found on the web at www.bigbranchchurch.com as well as on Facebook.

Christina Maninich – 2017 Graduating Senior ***Bachelor of Bible & Theology*** **College Synopsis**

Tri-State Bible college not only has a strong foundation in God's Scripture, the professors that are teaching God's Word truly live to serve God. Their care and the mentoring they provide is priceless. I have attended several different colleges and there is no comparing the type of education we receive at Tri-State

compared to the bigger Universities or even a smaller Junior College. Over the past four years the students in my classes have become family. We have shared this journey together. This began as an educational step in a goal to better serve the Lord in my life and has turned into a life-changing experience.



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