



Offering Access to a Community of Biblical Scholarship

January 2025 Update



24-25 Impact Dinner at TSBC

CHURCH HISTORY IN APPALACHIA

For the first time, Church History in Appalachia is being taught at Tri-State Bible College (and maybe for the first time anywhere in the world?! It has been fascinating to make connections between the wider church history of the United States of America and the narrower details of what took place in the north central Appalachian region in the late 1700s and early 1800s. TSBC is located in Lawrence County, OH, which formally organized in 1815–1817 out of portions of Scioto and Gallia counties. Just prior to this in 1812–1814, two Presbyterian mission agents, John Schermerhorn and Samuel Mills, reported that Scioto and Gallia counties had a combined population of 7,580 inhabitants, 1 Presbyterian Church Supervisor (i.e., someone who oversaw church programs, worship services, education, and outreach initiatives), 1 Vacant Society (i.e., a congregation or preaching place, but not an organized church), 1 Itinerant Methodist Ministry, and 911 known Methodists. Reporting on these two counties, they wrote,

This is a proper field for missionary labor . . . Scioto[us] counties have made particular request to Presbytery for supply, and intimated a desire to settle a minister. In Gallia county, there is a place where a preacher, who would take the charge of an Academy, would have a good support, and the prospect of usefulness is great. This place is settled by many French people, ignorant of all religion, and without a Bible (14).

A significant Baptist movement began to spread west from Mud River Baptist Church (now) in Ona, WV (1807) through Cabell County and into southern Ohio. According to TSBC Professor Jacob Marshall, John Alderson Jr. and John Lee were instrumental in carrying the missionary spirit of Mud River into the founding of Baptist congregations in this region (e.g., Storms Creek Baptist Church in Ironton, Solida Baptist Church in South Point). While the First Methodist Church of Ironton began in 1893, the Methodist circuit rider Russell Bigelow ministered to a congregation in Portsmouth, OH before his death in 1835. Some of the most amazing origin stories of churches in southern Ohio are those of the Macedonian Missionary Baptist Church (1849) in Burlington and the Allen Chapel AME Church (1837) in Portsmouth. In 1847–1850, the German Lutherans led by William Hunderdosse began to organize congregations located near the Pine Grove Furnace in Lawrence County.

By 1850, Protestant churches of various denominations filled Gallia, Lawrence, and Scioto counties in Ohio. Naval officer James Lawrence, for whom Lawrence County is named, is famous for uttering these final words, "Do not give up the ship!" May the Holy Spirit fill us with the missionary resolve that belonged to the first Christians of north central Appalachia for the sake of reaching our neighbors with the gospel today.

News at Tri-State Bible College

ALL LOCAL PASTORS

All local pastors are invited to join us on Tuesdays, January 14, February 4, March 4, and April 1 from 9–10 AM for a time of fellowship. We drink coffee, make circle, and share in conversation with one another. Please join us at an upcoming Pastors' Networking Coffee this spring.

ENTRY LEVEL IMPACT PARTNERS

**MAKE
YOUR
IMPACT
TODAY.**

BEGIN YOUR MONTHLY SUPPORT OF TRI-STATE BIBLE COLLEGE AT \$5, \$10, \$20, \$25, OR \$50 PER MONTH. GIVE NOW AT [TSBC.EDU](https://tsbc.edu). CLICK "DONATE" AND OFFER ACCESS FOR STUDENTS TO FULFILL THEIR MINISTRIES.

PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP DINNER: SCIOTO COUNTY

Join

Tri-State Bible College

President Rex Howe

FOR A FREE PASTORS'

FELLOWSHIP DINNER

SAVE THE DATE:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2025
AT 6:00 PM



TRI-STATE BIBLE COLLEGE

2025 Spring Pastors' Networking Coffees

Tuesday Mornings—January 14,
February 4, March 4, April 1—from
9:00–10:00 AM



APPALACHIAN MINISTRY CONFERENCE

TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 2025

TRI-STATE BIBLE COLLEGE
506 MARGARET STREET
SOUTH POINT, OH 45680

4TH ANNUAL

Appalachian Ministry Conference



→ SAVE THE DATE!

SCIOTO COUNTY PASTORS' FELLOWSHIP DINNER ON 2/28/25

The purpose of the event is to build relationships between the Bible College and local pastors in the tri-state. The focus will be on partnerships for recruiting and developing students into future leaders for churches in the region. The location is to be determined. For more information, you can contact Rex Howe at rex.howe@tsbc.edu.