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**SOUTH RIVER**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

2659 South Chipley Ford Rd.  
Statesville, NC 28625-8712

[SouthRiverBaptist.com](http://SouthRiverBaptist.com)

Periodical

# DECEMBER 2024

## OUR CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Chris Thompson, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Scott Townsell, Pastor for Missions & Families  
Rev. Tony Craver, Church Administrator  
Dr. Alton Cook, Pastor for Congregational Health  
Colt Christmas, Youth Ministry Associate  
Timothy Clendenin, Children's Ministry Associate  
Kim Williams, IT Support & Headwaters Administrator  
Heather Melton, Ministry Assistant  
Carole Ireland, Financial Secretary

704-876-1520  
980-829-3163  
704-397-6965  
336-707-2886  
757-373-8221  
704-928-9882  
704-881-1459  
704-876-1520  
704-876-1520

## EACH SUNDAY

8:15 AM Morning Worship  
9:30 AM Sunday School  
10:45 AM Morning Worship  
5:00 PM Worship Choir  
5:45 PM GROW Students/Kids  
6:00 PM Evening Worship

## EACH WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM Prayer Service/GROW

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**SOUTH RIVER**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 25, Number 4

CURRENTS

December 2024



Join Us for  
Candlelight Service  
December 22nd @ 6pm

[SouthRiverBaptist.com](http://SouthRiverBaptist.com)

2659 S. Chipley Ford Road, Statesville NC 28625 | Phone (704) 876-1520

# FROM THE PASTOR

South River Church Family,

It's December and that means the celebration of the birth of our Savior is near! Isaiah reveals for the believers why this is such a joyous time of year for believers.

Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined. You have multiplied the nation and increased its joy; they rejoice before You according to the joy of harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For You have broken the yoke of his burden and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, and garments rolled in blood, will be used for burning and fuel of fire.

*For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*  
*Isaiah 9:1-7*

Isaiah reveals that God can illuminate the darkness of life and give us hope when we discover the glorious names of our Lord. The celebration of Easter and Christmas are two incredible times of worship for the church. Invite someone you know who may be in the midst of darkness so the light of the Lord can shine worth into their life. The greatest gift you can share with others is the love of Christ and the good news of His birth to redeem mankind.

My family and I want to express our gratitude to you all for the love and joy you have shared with us this year. We are blessed to serve together with you and consider it a privilege to be a part of this great church family.

We wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

Pastor Chris

# PRE-SCHOOL

**1ST SUNDAY**  
**8:15 AM Worship**  
Melanie Townsell  
Molly Townsell  
Jonna Bentley  
**10:45 AM Worship**  
Tonda Lowman  
Emily Lowman  
Chely Mahler  
**6:00 PM Worship**  
Cricket Barnette  
Patsy Burnette

**2ND SUNDAY**  
**8:15 AM Worship**  
Terry Reid  
Taylor Hedrick  
Kelly Hill  
**10:45 AM Worship**  
Brittany Griffin  
Brenna Pence  
Annabella Kilcoyne  
**PM Worship**  
Mary Jo Frye  
Amelia Fox

**3RD SUNDAY**  
**8:15 Worship**  
Salem Grace Lyles  
Michelle Mullins  
Terry Aiken  
**10:45 Worship**  
Kaitlyn Lyon  
Stephanie Bennett  
Cheri Horner  
**6:00 PM Worship**  
Kim Mersfelder  
April Thompson  
Sarah Beth Thompson

**4TH SUNDAY**  
**8:15 AM Worship**  
Sharon Hobbs  
Savannah Mullins  
Addison Carter  
**10:45 Worship**  
Daphne Jensen  
Alissa Coulombe  
**6:00 PM Worship**  
NO Nursery - Candlelight services

**5TH SUNDAY**  
**8:15 Worship**  
Mary Keever  
Alisha Johnson  
**10:45 Worship**  
Abigail Kilcoyne  
Rebecca Thorpe  
**PM Worship**  
NO PM SERVICES

**1ST WEDNESDAY**  
Elizabeth Griffin  
Anita Long

**2ND WEDNESDAY**  
Donna Lyons  
Amanda Meadows

**3RD WEDNESDAY**  
Tara Beatty  
Heather Cannon

**4TH WEDNESDAY**  
NO PM SERVICES

# GREETERS

**DECEMBER 1ST**  
**8:00 AM**  
Martha McCoy - FD  
Carol Sipes - SP  
**10:30 AM**  
Bridget Merritt - FD  
Kimberly Shoemaker - SP

**DECEMBER 8TH**  
**8:00 AM**  
Maggie Baumberger - SP  
Cindy Holloway - FD  
**10:30 AM**  
Bridget Merritt - SP  
Alyssa LeVan - FD

**DECEMBER 15TH**  
**8:00 AM**  
Brenda Runkle - FD  
Sandra Boan - SP  
**10:30 AM**  
Riley Elliott - FD  
Carol Barringer - SP

**DECEMBER 22ND**  
**8:00 AM**  
Martha McCoy - SP  
Sandra Boan - FD  
**10:30 AM**  
Alyssa LeVan - SP  
Kimberly Shoemaker - FD

**DECEMBER 29TH**  
**8:00 AM**  
Cindy Holloway - FD  
Brenda Runkle - SP  
**10:30 AM**  
Mary Kirkpatrick - FD  
Carol Barringer - SP

## GRIEF SHARE MINISTRY

GriefShare class meets on  
Sundays @ 3 pm in FLC 6.  
Please contact  
Steve Jenkins at (980) 263-4134  
for information on when the  
next session begins.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

By Baptism:  
Stephen & Stephanie Bennett  
188 Donsdale Dr  
Statesville, NC 28625  
Stephen - (704) 881-1577  
Stephanie - (704) 880-2833

## 2024/25 MINISTRY BUDGET

YTD BUDGET GOALS	\$ 240,288.00
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	\$ 226,084.69

## PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & FAMILIES

### *Need the Word and Context!*

Each Monday and Wednesday I have the opportunity to teach Bible to the Middle and High School students at Headwaters. The topic currently being taught is Hermeneutics or basically how to properly interpret the Bible.

Each class is started with a time of reading God's Word and Journaling the things that we see during our Observation, which leads us to a proper Interpretation and then we **APPLY** it to our lives. The students also take notes throughout the class.

At the end of the 9 weeks, I collected their journals just to make sure everyone was on track. As I was turning through one of the journals the picture that is attached caught my eyes.

One of the notes stated *"Don't just read the Bible on Sunday, Read it every day!* You need to!!" and the other *"Do Not take The Bible Out of context!!!"*

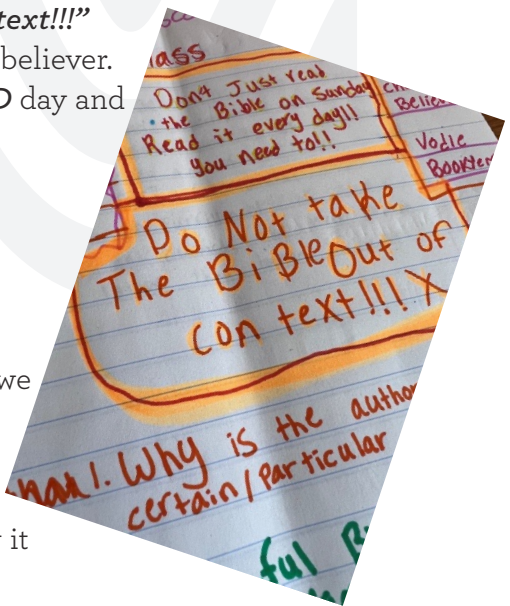
Wow, these are two statements that are true for every believer. Joshua 1:8 says that we should meditate on the **WORD** day and night.

*We **NEED** to be in the Word daily.*

2 Timothy 2:15 says we should study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. The way we handle the Word and teach the Word matters.

Let's start reading the Word daily because we **NEED** it and by doing so we have a better chance of keeping it in **CONTEXT!**

-Pastor Scott Townsell, Pastor for Missions and Families





# DEEP & WIDE YOUTH MINISTRY

I posed the question a few weeks ago: *What is the primary goal of evangelism?*

To answer this question, let’s look at Matt 28:18-20.

*“18 Then Jesus came up and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

Now read 1 Cor 3:6-7.

*“6 I planted, Apollos watered, but God caused it to grow. 7 So neither the one who plants counts for anything, nor the one who waters, but God who causes the growth.”*

According to Matthew, we are commanded, as we go through life, to make disciples.

This includes baptizing them and teaching them to obey Jesus.

How does Paul in 1 Cor inform us of how this process works?

Paul says this to the Corinthian church: I planted the gospel, Apollos did some more work with the gospel, but ultimately it was God who saved, who caused it to burst forth in the heart.

So, according to these texts, our goal in evangelism is to *glorify God by proclaiming the glorious announcement of the victory and kingdom of our Savior King, Jesus. Also known as, the Gospel.*

Once this proclamation takes place, we leave the rest up to the Lord. If we have glorified Him through a faithful proclamation of the Gospel, then we have done all we can. If it so pleases Him to bring conversion, we then continue by baptizing and teaching them to obey Jesus.

Thank the Lord that conversion is not left up to us! If it were, no one would be saved!

Evangelism is not a contradiction to God’s sovereignty in saving. In fact, God has purposed that salvation won’t happen without the proclamation of the Gospel! Evangelism is necessary for the salvation of God’s people. God’s plan won’t be thwarted to save all he desires! Did you know the gospel won’t fail? Joyfully read Rev 7:9-10 with me.

*9 After these things I looked, and here was an enormous crowd that no one could count, made up of persons from every nation, tribe, people, and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb dressed in long white robes, and with palm branches in their hands. 10 They were shouting out in a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God, who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”*

What wonder! The Holy One of Israel has purposed from before the creation of the world to send His Son to purchase/redeem a people from every nation, tribe, people, and language! Listen carefully, the Gospel will not fail!

So South River, let us proclaim. Let us plant, let us water, and most importantly let us leave the weight and responsibility of growing the seed in the soul to the only One who can do it.

-Best regards, Colt Christmas.



# BIRTHDAYS

# ANNIVERSARIES

## DECEMBER

- |    |                    |    |                  |
|----|--------------------|----|------------------|
| 1  | Alyssa LeVan       | 13 | Crystal Barnes   |
|    | John Waugh         |    | Dave Snyder      |
| 2  | Emilee Lippard     | 14 | Beverly Carter   |
|    | Donna Lyons        |    | Wayne Hill       |
|    | Skyler McClure     |    | Darlene Jones    |
|    | Sammy Wall         |    | Canaan LeVan     |
| 3  | Alaina Cook        | 15 | Larry Campbell   |
| 4  | Mary Jo Frye       | 16 | Steven Pope      |
|    | Daphne Jensen      | 17 | Abigail Kilcoyne |
|    | Salem Grace Lyles  | 18 | Sandra Ketchem   |
|    | Sheri Pope         | 19 | Olivia Cagle     |
| 5  | Jason Wenzel       |    | Christie Hance   |
| 6  | Ann Gettys         | 20 | Amelia Fox       |
|    | Sherwin Johnson    |    | Charli Mahler    |
|    | Kaye Stokes        | 22 | Alton Cook       |
| 8  | Gavin Barnette     |    | Emery Gallina    |
|    | Beth Weibley       | 24 | Lynn Johnson     |
|    | Mary Zittle        |    | Cody Stewart     |
| 9  | Blake Dishmond     | 25 | Kinnan Johnson   |
|    | Matthew Johnson    | 27 | Chloe Jenkins    |
| 10 | Joel Kilcoyne      | 28 | Brian Cook       |
|    | Eli Pope           |    | Shannon Hedrick  |
| 11 | Gail Marinelli     | 29 | Georgie Keever   |
| 12 | Steve Dixon        | 30 | Anna Burris      |
|    | Daniel Fisher, Jr. | 31 | Rhonda Keever    |
|    |                    |    | Bryce Goodman    |

## DECEMBER

- |    |                          |
|----|--------------------------|
| 2  | Chris & Bonnie Hamilton  |
|    | Jeffrey & Rikki Ober     |
| 15 | Steven & Michelle Graham |
| 18 | Shane & Jonna Bentley    |
| 23 | Don & Janet Johnson      |
| 27 | Kevin & April Johnson    |
|    | Jerry & Anita Long       |
|    | Greg & Deborah Templeton |

# RIPPLEKIDZ MINISTRY

## Get Those Spiritual Calories

*What does your spiritual diet look like?* Do you take in the proper spiritual nutrients on a regular basis?

Charles Swindoll has a great book titled, Searching The Scriptures. In that book, he does a great job of showing us how our need for spiritual food is every bit as important as our physical food. Just like our stomach tells us when we are hungry, our souls tell us as well. When we are edgy, irritated, unhappy, or when we are anxious, these are just a few ways our souls tell us they are hungry for the Word of God. Our hunger for the Word tells us how healthy we are spiritually. Just like a bad appetite tells us something is wrong physically, a lack of spiritual appetite alerts us to something wrong spiritually.

Man shall not and cannot live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God. And Jesus also said,

*"Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."* (Matthew 5:6)

Join me this Christmas and let's not only fill our bellies with the delicious food God has given, but let's also feed our souls the food of His Word, not the world.

Timothy Clendenin, Children's Ministry Associate

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## RIVER WORSHIP CHOIR

1st AM	Who Is Like The Lord	PM	Shepherd, Savior, King
8th AM	Light Of The World	PM	Lo How A Rose E'er Blooming
15th AM	Joy To The World	PM	Tell Out My Soul
22nd AM	On Christmas Day	PM	Candlelight Services
29th AM	If You Never	PM	NO PM Services

## SPECIAL MUSIC

1st AM	Wynston Lyles	PM	Jimmy Williams
8th AM	Praise Team	PM	Mary Cook
15th AM	Trio	PM	Lydia Thorpe
22nd AM	Rachel Davidson	PM	Candlelight Services
29th AM	Belle Craver	PM	NO PM Services

## RADIO MINISTRY SCHEDULE Mon-Fri Programming

6:30am Love Worth Finding - Dr. Adrian Rogers  
6pm Grace To You - Dr. John MacArthur  
8pm Turning Point Daily - Dr. David Jeremiah  
10pm Wretched Radio Daily - Todd Friel

## Weekend Programming

Sat @ 12pm Washington Watch Weekly  
Sun @ 7am Turning Point Weekend - Dr. David Jeremiah  
Sun @ 8am Love Worth Finding Weekend - Dr. Adrian Rogers  
Sun @ 12pm & 7pm South River Baptist Church  
Sun @ 5pm Grace To You Weekend - Dr. John MacArthur

## Music Genre Schedule

12am - 3am Contemporary Christian  
3am - 7am Gospel  
7am - 6pm Contemporary & Gospel Mix  
6pm - 9pm Gospel  
9pm - 12am Contemporary Christian



## ADULT GROW CLASSES



### 2024-2025 Winter Adult GROW Schedule

**Sundays @ 6 - 7 PM**

Knowing God (Packer) - Fred Bradburn (Choir room)

**Coming in January on Wednesdays @ 7 PM**

Grasping God's Word led by Pastor Scott Townsell

**Coming in January on 2nd & 4th Saturday's @ 8am**

Biblical Masculinity led by Tony Craver

Jan 11th & 25th, Feb 8th & 22nd, Mar 8th & 22nd

Special event to follow in late March or early April

## FUTURE EVENTS



## Mark Your Calendars

**December**

22nd - Candlelight Service @ 6pm

**January**

5th - GROW resumes

25th - Widow & Widowers Lunch



## HEADWATERS ACADEMY



HEADWATERS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
**PATRIOTS**

2nd Semester Begins January 6th and that is a great time to start at Headwaters

We do have openings in most grades.

We offer 3 day (Tu-Thu) and 5 day Pre-K (7:45 am to 11:30 am) and K-11th grade.

See details online @ [headwaters-academy.com](https://headwaters-academy.com)

**Please call if you would like additional information or to set up a tour and interview.**

New students should use this link > <https://headwaters-academy.com/register-new/>

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED FOR THIS MINISTRY!** We need help in the lunchroom, cleanup crew, teacher assistants, tutors, library, recess monitoring.

If you can volunteer between 8am and 2pm Mon – Fri, we can find a place for you to serve!  
Please fill out a volunteer form or contact me let us know of your interest. One or two days per week will go far to help this ministry of South River Baptist Church.

**Scan to apply or contact Kim Williams for more details**  
at 704-881-1459 [kim@southriverbaptist.com](mailto:kim@southriverbaptist.com); <https://headwaters-academy.com/volunteer/>

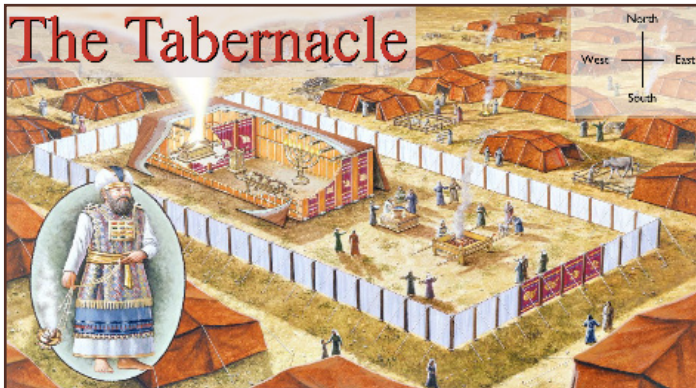


Other ways you can help support Headwaters:

>>> Download the Box Tops app and select Headwaters Christian Academy in Statesville, NC as your school, then scan your grocery receipts

>>> RaiseRight is another way to support Headwaters by purchasing gift cards that you would normally buy in stores. You can use this link to get started > <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=SM4GPS3BTGJ5>

## DISCIPLESHIP MINISTRY



**Come & Worship:**  
**A Study of the Tabernacle**

**with**  
**Pastor Chris**

**Wednesdays**  
**@ 7:00 pm**

## A SPECIAL DECEMBER GROW FOR KIDS

# Starting December 1st

# In the Steps of Jesus

## A Journey from Bethlehem to Emmaus



**Don't let your children miss**  
**our Journey together on**  
**Sunday and Wednesday**  
**Nights**

2024

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5:45 pm GROW Christmas 1	2	3	6:45 GROW Christma 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting s 4	5	6	3pm Youth Progressive Dinner 7
5:45 pm GROW Christmas 8	9	10	6:45 pm GROW Christmas 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Stewardship 11	12	13	14
5:45 pm GROW Christmas 15	16	3:00 pm Senior Adult Food Boxes 17	HCA Chapel 6:45 pm GROW Christmas 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 18	19	20	21
Lord's Supper AM Services 6:00pm Candlelight Service 22	HCA Christmas Break 23	HCA Christmas Break Church Office Closed 24	MERRY CHRISTMAS HCA Christmas Break Church Office Closed NO Wed Services 25	HCA Christmas Break 26	HCA Christmas Break 27	28
NO PM Services 29	HCA Christmas Break 30	HCA Christmas Break 31				