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**SOUTH RIVER**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

**Periodical**

# JANUARY 2025

## 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

South River Currents (USPS 019433) is published monthly by South River Baptist Church,  
2659 S. Chipley Ford Road, Statesville NC 28625. Periodical Postage Paid at Statesville, NC 28677.

## **GROW starts again January 12th**



## FROM THE PASTOR

Dear South River Church Family,

Welcome to a new year full of opportunities to grow in your faith. New beginnings are always an exciting time to discover what God is doing in your life and in the world around you. I want to share with you a couple of opportunities for you to grow in your faith as well as your commitment to serve our Lord Jesus.

I hope you will consider joining one of the new discipleship classes on Sunday or Wednesday evenings. There are great options for men, women, and our children to grow in their knowledge of God's Word. Consider bringing a friend to join you in one of these classes.

I want to encourage everyone to be here Sunday evening, January 5 for our quarterly Church Ministry Meeting. I will be sharing the "State of Our Church" and the opportunities before us in 2025. We will hear about the strategic objectives for our ministry at South River and in our community and how that relates to our ministries and objectives.

I believe 2025 will be an exciting time to see the Lord's hand move in our church and community. Begin praying now about how He will use you in ministry at South River and to our surrounding community. May God use these opportunities to mature our faith and enable us to spread the gospel abroad.

Blessings,

Pastor Chris

# PRE-SCHOOL

# GREETERS

## 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 AM Worship

Salem Grace Lyles  
Michelle Mullins

### 10:45 AM 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 AM Worship

Daphne Jensen  
Alissa Coulombe

### 6:00 PM Worship

Liz Deal  
Robin Stewart

## 1ST WEDNESDAY

Elizabeth Griffin  
Anita Long

## 2ND WEDNESDAY

Donna Lyons  
Amanda Meadows

## 3RD WEDNESDAY

Tara Beatty  
Heather Cannon

## 4TH WEDNESDAY

Amanda Meadows  
Mary Cook  
Alaina Cook

## 5TH WEDNESDAY

Elizabeth Griffin  
Bonnie Hamilton

## JANUARY 5TH

### 8:00 AM

Martha McCoy - SP  
Carol Sipes - FD

### 10:30 AM

Eli Pope - SP  
Riley Elliott - FD

## JANUARY 12TH

### 8:00 AM

Maggie Baumberger - FD  
Sandra Boan - SP

### 10:30 AM

Bridget Merritt - SP  
Carol Barringer - FD

## JANUARY 19TH

### 8:00 AM

Brenda Runkle - SP  
Cindy Holloway - FD

### 10:30 AM

Eli Pope - FD  
Kimberly Shoemaker - SP

## JANUARY 26TH

### 8:00 AM

Bridget Merritt - SP  
Sandra Boan - FD

### 10:30 AM

Alyssa LeVan - FD  
Mary Kirkpatrick - 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

Joined by Transfer of Letter:  
Tammy MacLean  
129 Altondale Dr  
Statesville, NC 28625-2759  
(828) 234-7659

## 2024/25 MINISTRY BUDGET

YTD BUDGET GOALS	\$ 340,408.00
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	\$ 326,574.34

# PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & FAMILIES

## *“Bound for Hell”*

I sat and simply watched them,  
As I walked along the path.  
I saw so very many,  
I could not do the math.

There were young and old alike,  
As they moved along the way.  
Some were quiet, others chatting,  
As they lived another day.

There were musicians with guitars,  
And students off to school.  
There were executives wearing suits,  
But I did not know what to do.

For as I sat and watched them,  
I began to feel unwell,  
Because I saw above each face,  
A sign that read “Bound for hell.”

I imagined them dropping off a cliff,  
And plunging into flames beneath,  
Forever lost from God’s loving grace,  
And my heart was filled with grief.

Their screams will echo in the  
void,  
With none to rescue them.  
They’ll grind their teeth in agony,  
As they suffer for their sins.

They did not trust in Jesus,  
Who had died upon the cross.  
They’ll feel God’s wrath in full,  
And will forever suffer loss.

We must go and warn them,  
Of the coming wrath.  
We must preach the gospel,  
Before the die is cast.

Will you choose to see the sign?  
Will you hear the toiling bell?  
Will you share the gospel,  
Before they’re cast in hell?

This is a poem written by Greg Stier of Dare 2 Share Ministries. The poem brings a whole new meaning to the hymn “Rescue the Perishing” and Jude 1:22-23.

***“And have mercy on those who waver; save others snatching them out of fire; have mercy on others, coupled with a fear of God, hating even the clothes stained by the flesh.”***

This new year may we have a burden for the lost and be found faithful in sharing the only message of Hope, “Jesus Saves”!

Pastor Scott Townsell, Pastor for Missions & Families

# DEEP & WIDE YOUTH MINISTRY

As we think back on our year, I think some of us will be plagued with past sins, pain, mistakes, failures, and regrets. Things that we tend to wallow in, things that fill us with shame.

These thoughts can turn into a cage really quickly. This leads to keeping people at arm's length, isolation, depression, anxiety, anger, and fear. This makes one unfruitful, mastered by the Flesh, Sin, and the Enemy. Humans have an inevitable tendency to focus on the bad instead of the good.

If you find yourself in this pit this new year, I want you to meditate on Joel 2:23-25, specifically verse 25 which reads:

***"Then I will make up to you for the years  
That the swarming locust has eaten,  
The creeping locust, the stripping locust, and the gnawing locust,  
My great army which I sent among you."***

Did you catch that? ***"I will make up to you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten."***

Oh what blessed truth is this, that our Lord is able to take every bad thing, whether you brought it on yourself or it was thrust upon you by someone else, The Lord is able to take it and redeem it. All the wasted years of sin and fruitlessness, all the wasted years of sickness, pain, and suffering, in the divine hands are turned for our good. If you have entrusted your life currently into the nail-pierced hands of Jesus, then know this; nothing, in all of creation, nothing past, present, or future will ever be able to destroy you and make you unusable by The Great Potter. He is the God of the past, present, and future, nothing is outside of his redeeming love and grace. Therefore, rest. Lay back and rest on the One who the beloved apostle John rested on. Break your alabaster jar, sit at Jesus' feet, and behold.

-Best regards, Colt Christmas

# BIRTHDAYS

# ANNIVERSARIES

## JANUARY

- |    |  |    |  |
|----|--|----|--|
| 1  | Heather Booie<br>Scotty Greene                       | 16 | Harold Christy<br>Ovanell Corriher   |
| 2  | Bud Redmond<br>Natalia Lyons                         | 18 | Michelle Mullins   |
| 3  | Pete Jones<br>Lorene Wallace<br>Kieran Wilson        | 20 | Jacob Deal<br>Donna Gallina  |
| 4  | Phillip Clendenin<br>Mary Cook<br>Gabe Sherrill      | 22 | Addison Carter<br>Stephanie Peterson   |
| 5  | Stephanie Bennett                                    | 23 | Connie Cook<br>Elizabeth Griffin   |
| 6  | Crystal Johns<br>Ty Templeton<br>Rylee Wireman       | 24 | Melani Harrell   |
| 7  | Elizabeth Deal<br>Isaiah Thompson                    | 25 | Holly Deal<br>Bryan Shoemaker  |
| 8  | Reagan Melton<br>Melanie Townsell                    | 26 | Susan Boyd   |
| 10 | Sherrie Haithcox<br>Cheri Horner<br>Matthew Kilcoyne | 27 | Wyatt LeFever<br>Jenny Mason   |
| 11 | Billie Hart  | 28 | Charles Campbell, Sr.<br>Hal Gibson<br>Corbyn Mahler<br>Kimberly Mersfelder<br>Carol Stewart |
| 12 | Larry Johnson<br>Michael Wilhelm                     | 29 | Nancy Snyder   |
| 13 | Nicolas Chege<br>Daniel Fisher III                   | 30 | James Melton<br>Jamin Thorpe   |
| 14 | Erica Barnette<br>Madison Burnette                   |    |  |
| 15 | Gene McCoy   |    |  |

## JANUARY

- |    |                       |
|----|-----------------------|
| 1  | Larry & Jean Morrison |
| 5  | Allen & Teresa Stroud |
| 8  | Craig & Mary Morrison |
| 19 | Matt & Jessica Park   |
| 24 | Dan & Allaine McGee   |
| 28 | Colt & Mady Christmas |



## *Be Still And Know*

God is the One who raises up kings and brings them down. He is the one who gives and takes away. He is a God of justice and fairness. He is a God of holiness and compassion. He is a God of love and discipline. He is a God of glory and also humility. He is a God of gentleness and strength. He is a God of Grace and mercy. He is a God of truth and faithfulness. He is a God without boundary yet knowable. He is a God of glorious honor while also horrific dishonor through the cross. He is the great high priest yet our sacrifice. He is our master yet our brother. He is the lamb that was slain yet our Good Shepherd. He is the veil yet our access. He is transcendent yet our tabernacle. He is our strength and our sabbath rest. He is our bread and our living water. He is our Lord yet our friend. He is our righteousness by taking on our unrighteousness. He is our life yet we must die to ourselves. He carried our cross yet calls us to bear one too. He is the Word yet He kept silent. He is God and man. He is a Servant yet a king. He is life but died. He was dead but arose. He owes nothing yet gave everything. He was in the beginning yet declared it is finished. He is omnipresent yet Immanuel. He is faithful but was betrayed. He was known but denied. He brought joy to the world yet wept by the graveside. He was the greatest gift but His own rejected Him. He who knew no sin was made sin so that we could become the righteousness of God.

Surely to stop and meditate on these truths is what David meant when he wrote the words: “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

Timothy Clendenin, Children’s Ministry Associate

# WORSHIP MINISTRY

## RIVER WORSHIP CHOIR

5th AM	Come Behold The Wonderous Mystery	PM	No Choir Song
12th AM	I Will Always Sing Of The Cross	PM	Calvary Covered It All
19th AM	Is He Worthy	PM	Show The World
26th AM	Find Us Faithful	PM	Lead Me To The Rock

## SPECIAL MUSIC

5th AM	Sherwin Johnson	PM	Jimmy Williams
12th AM	Jerry Long	PM	Taylor Hedrick
19th AM	Praise Team	PM	Belle Craver
26th AM	Lydia Thorpe	PM	Darlene Estes

## RADIO MINISTRY SCHEDULE Mon-Fri Programming

6:30am Love Worth Finding - Dr. Adrian Rogers  
8am (Tue-Sat) Running To Win - Dr. Ervin Lutzer  
12pm (5min) Reading By The River  
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



## **2025 Winter Adult GROW Schedule Starts January 12th**

### **Sundays @ 6 PM in the Choir Room**

Grasping God's Word by J. Scott Duvall & J. Daniel Hays  
led by Pastor Scott Townsell

### **Wednesdays @ 7 PM in the Choir Room**

The Keys to Spiritual Growth by John MacArthur  
led by Tony Craver

### **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

### January

5th - Business Meeting

12th - GROW resumes

20th - Youth Tubing

25th - Widow & Widowers Lunch

### February

7th-9th Pure & Holy (Youth Event)

# 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**

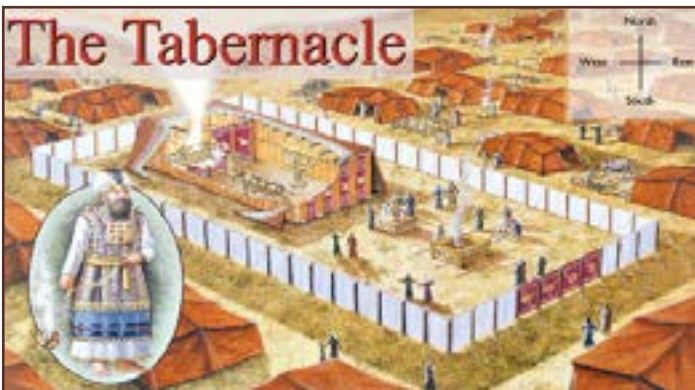
**at 704-881-1459** [kim@southeriverbaptist.com](mailto:kim@southeriverbaptist.com); <https://headwaters-academy.com/volunteer/>

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**

2025 SUNDAY AM SERMON SERIES

# FAITH THAT ENDURES

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*A Study of the Book of Hebrews*

**2025 Yearlong Sermon Series  
Starting January 5th**

Pickup your scripture cards at the main entrance

The Christian journey of faith is a lifelong adventure that involves growth, transformation, and walking by faith. It requires courage, perseverance, and reliance on God's promises. Empowered by the Spirit, it's aim is to glorify God!

# 2025

# January

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wedne

			Happy New Church Office No Servi HCA Christm
6pm Business Mtg <b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	7:00 pm Prayer
9:30 Riverwalk Class 5:45 pm GROW Begins <b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	HCA Cha 6:45 GRO 7:00 pm Prayer 8:00 pm Stewar
9:30 Riverwalk Class 5:45 pm GROW <b>19</b>	Headwaters Closed Youth Tubing <b>20</b>	3:00 pm Senior Adult Food Boxes <b>21</b>	6:45 GRO 7:00 pm Prayer
9:30 Riverwalk Class 5:45 pm GROW <b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	6:45 GRO 7:00 pm Prayer

Monday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

Year  
Closed  
ces  
as Break  
1

HCA Christmas Break  
2

HCA Christmas Break  
3

4

Meeting  
8

9

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11

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DW  
r Meeting  
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15

16

17

18

DW  
Meeting  
22

23

24

11:30 Widow & Widowers Lunch  
25

DW  
Meeting  
29

30

31