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SOUTH
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SouthRiverBaptist.com

Periodical

DECEMBER 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
Timothy Clendenin, Children's Ministry Associate
Wynston Lyles, Worship 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
704-928-9882
336-830-1670
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
5:30 PM GROW Students/Kids
6:00 PM Evening Worship

EACH WEDNESDAY

6:40 PM GROW Students/Kids
7:00 PM Prayer Service/GROW

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SOUTH
BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 26, Number 4

CURRENTS

December 2025



December 7th 6:00 p.m.

COME HEAR THE SOUNDS OF CHRISTMAS AS WE CELEBRATE THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

Send Christmas favorites to Wynston at (336) 830-1670 or Heather at (704) 876-1520

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FROM THE PASTOR

South River Church Family,

Thanksgiving is past, but a grateful spirit remains in our hearts as we approach the celebration of the birth of our Savior. This Christmas will be joyous as we resolve to share with family and friends, as well with co-workers and our community, the true meaning of Christmas. I pray that you seize every opportunity to share the boundless joy of knowing Jesus throughout this month. There are two evangelistic opportunities to invite others to this Christmas season.

First, invite friends and neighbors to join us for the **Christmas Homecoming on December 7**. The Adult Choir and Worship team have been working hard preparing to lead us in some rich and meaningful Christmas music. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your neighbor or friend to church. You do not want to miss it.

Second, our annual **Christmas Candlelight Service will be on Sunday Evening, December 21**. This will be a wonderful time of reflecting on the One who was born to die for our sins. Many people will attend church during Christmas and Easter, so leverage the opportunity to extend an invitation to someone to gather with us that evening.

My family is grateful for our church family and all your expressions of love, encouragement, and support this past year. We are privileged to be a part of this great church family and are excited to discover what God has planned for the new year of ministry on our growing church property. We wish you all a very blessed Christmas.

Pastor Chris

PRE-SCHOOL

GREETERS

SUNDAY SERVICES

DECEMBER 7TH

8:15 AM Worship

Salen Grace Lyles
Terry Aiken

10:45 AM Worship

Heather Melton
Chely Mahler

6:00 PM Worship

Concert - No Nursery

DECEMBER 28TH

8:15 AM Worship

Michelle Muillins
Savannah Mullins

10:45 AM Worship

April Thompson
Taylor Hedrick

6:00 PM Worship

Cyndi Cook
Robin Stewart

DECEMBER 7TH

8:00 AM

Carole S. - FD
Martha M. - SP

10:30 AM

Brdget M. - FD
Kimberly S. - SP

DECEMBER 14TH

8:00 AM

Kate D.. - FD
Brenda R. - SP

10:30 AM

Jenna S. - FD
Mary K. - SP

DECEMBER 21ST

8:00 AM

Bonnie W. - FD
Carol S. - SP

10:30 AM

Abigail K. - FD
Bridget M.- SP

DECEMBER 28TH

8:00 AM

Cindy H. - FD
Kate D.. - SP

10:30 AM

Eli P. - FD
Carole B. - SP

DECEMBER 14TH

8:15 AM Worship

Debbie Sloan
Sharon Hobbs

10:45 AM Worship

Rebecca Thorpe
Keri Mankos

6:00 PM Worship

Play - No Nursery

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

DECEMBER 3RD

Elizabeth Griffin
Anita Long

DECEMBER 10TH

Tara Beatty
Donna Lyons

DECEMBER 17TH

Maritza Anderson
Heather Cannon

DECEMBER 24TH

No Service

DECEMBER 31ST

No Service

DECEMBER 21ST

8:15 AM Worship

Terry Reid
Kelly Hill

10:45 AM Worship

Brenna Pence
Cheri Horner

6:00 PM Worship

Candlelight - No Nursery

GRIEF SHARE MINISTRY

GriefShare Class
Aug 17th - Nov 9th
Sundays @ 3 pm in FLC 6

Please contact
Steve Jenkins at
(980) 263-4134



NEW MEMBER

By Baptism

Michael Brooks - 11/9

2025/26 MINISTRY BUDGET

YTD BUDGET GOALS	\$ 259,415.00
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE as of 11/23/2025	\$ 252,351.00

PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & FAMILIES

A Month of Service, Gratitude, and Gospel Impact

Church family, November has been a full month of serving our community, strengthening partnerships, and sharing Christ through practical acts of love. Here are the highlights of what God allowed us to accomplish together:

We began the month by blessing the farmers in our community with 500 hot meals as a simple way of saying thank you. Farmers are often overlooked, yet without their daily labor, there would be no food on our tables. It was a joy to honor them and remind them that their work matters.

We also had the opportunity to serve at two Mountaire Chicken events, the Statesville and Siler City Breeders Convention. For nearly three years, Mountaire has donated chicken to us monthly, enabling many of our outreach ministries. By serving at these events, we were able to express our gratitude and continue building a relationship with a partner who plays a vital role in our mission to feed our community.

The week before Thanksgiving, we delivered Thanksgiving meals to our shut-ins, reminding them that they are not forgotten and remain dearly loved by their church family. We also delivered 60 meals to the Plaza Apartments, a local housing community where many residents need assistance. This is the same location where our students go Christmas caroling during our Progressive Dinner outreach each year, making it a meaningful place of ongoing ministry.

On Saturday, we partnered again with Mountaire to pack 5,000 food boxes, each one designed to feed a family of four. Through this single event, we played a part in helping provide food for 20,000 people. What an incredible privilege it is to be the hands and feet of Jesus in such a tangible way.

Earlier in the month, we also wrapped up our football ministry at West Iredell High School. Each Thursday and Friday of the season, we provided meals, built relationships, and opened God's Word with the team, sharing wisdom from the book of Proverbs and pointing them to Christ.

Church, what a blessing it is to serve together. As we head into Thanksgiving, may we be grateful for the opportunities God gives us and for the many hands that make these ministries possible. Thank you for praying, serving, and supporting our missions' efforts. We truly could not do this without you.

Pastor Scott Townsell - Pastor for Missions & Families



DEEP & WIDE YOUTH MINISTRY

Deep & Wide Student Ministry,

Parents, I want to begin by saying **thank you**. Your commitment to getting your students here on both Sunday nights and Wednesday nights makes a tremendous difference. Your faithfulness matters, and it is helping shape a generation that knows and loves the Word of God.

On Sunday nights, we continue to focus on helping our students grow deep in their knowledge of Scripture. We are finishing our fall study on the Attributes of God, and beginning in January, we will pick back up on the foreshadowing of Christ in the Old Testament scriptures. In a time when some well-known pastors claim we can “unhitch” ourselves from the Old Testament, or even from Scripture altogether, we want our students anchored in the truth that God’s Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Understanding the Old Testament strengthens our confidence in the gospel and deepens our love for Christ.

On Wednesday nights, we just completed our study through 1 John, where we examined the two types of “know”:

- **Oida** – knowledge rooted in truth
- **Ginosko** – knowledge rooted in relationship

This study was designed to help students find biblical assurance of salvation, not assurance built on tradition or emotion. We have now begun our next journey in **Watchman Nee’s book Sit, Walk, Stand**. Now that students understand the assurance found in God’s Word, we are learning what it means to **rest (sit)** in Christ’s finished work, **walk** worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4), and **stand** firm in spiritual strength (Ephesians 6).

Mark Your Calenders...

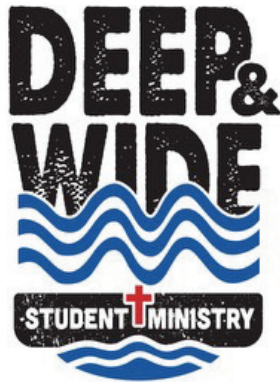
• **Dinner by Design (Progressive Dinner) - December 6** - Drop-off at 3:30 PM at the Missions Warehouse. A night of food, fellowship, and a clear presentation of the gospel.

• **High Country Christmas Outreach - December 13** - More details coming soon.

• **Summer Camp Deposits** - Turn in your deposit to receive your Service Hour Worksheet. Students can earn up to \$250 toward camp through serving.

If you have any questions, please reach out to **Pastor Scott**.

We are grateful to partner with you in discipling your students!



BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

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

ANNIVERSARIES

DECEMBER

- | | |
|----|--------------------------|
| 2 | Jeffrey & Rikki Ober |
| 18 | Shane & Jonna Bentley |
| 23 | Don & Janet Johnson |
| 27 | Greg & Deborah Templeton |
| | Jerry & Anita Long |

RIPPLEKIDZ MINISTRY

As Thanksgiving gives way to Christmas, the hustle and bustle of the holiday season will pick up. Shopping, gatherings, decorating, and baking will fill our next month, along with a sizable to-do list that will feel like it keeps getting longer.

My question is where do you want to spend your time? What do you want to spend it on? It's the most wonderful time of the year. We have things going on at church in addition to all the non-church related activities and it's all so enjoyable. I just want to encourage you to be intentional in spending time with your kids and not let the extra time with them being out of school disappear into the commercialism that comes with the season.

You'll only get one Christmas with your kiddos at this age...next year that will still be true. So make the most of it, make cookies, make cards, but most of all make memories, remembering Who Christmas is really all about.

Privileged to serve,
Children's Associate
Timothy Clendenin

WORSHIP MINISTRY

RIVER WORSHIP CHOIR

7th AM	Shepherd Savior King	PM Christmas Homecoming
14th AM	Go Tell It On The Mountain	PM Christmas Play
21st AM	Praise Is The Offering	PM Candelight Service
28th AM	All The Praise	PM NO PM Services

SPECIAL MUSIC

7th AM	Sherwin Johnson	PM Christmas Homecoming
14th AM	Darlene Estes	PM Christmas Play
21st AM	Praise Band	PM Candelight Service
28th AM	Southern Gospel River Quartet	PM NO PM Services

RADIO MINISTRY SCHEDULE Mon-Fri Programming

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



GROW CLASSES



GROW Year 3

CHRISTMAS GROW for Kids in December!!!

**Parenting (thru Dec)
Led by Pastor Scott in Choir Room
Sundays at 6pm**

**GROW for Youth & Kids
Sundays 5:30pm (games begin) &
Wednesdays 6:40pm**

SPECIAL EVENTS

**Join Us For
Candlelight Service
December 21st at 6pm**



**Mark Your
Calendars**

January

**19th - Youth Tubing
31st - Worship Ministry Appreciation**

HEADWATERS ACADEMY



HEADWATERS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
PATRIOTS

We have openings in some classes for the 2025-2026 School Year
We offer 3 day (Tue-Thu) and 5 day Pre-K (7:45 am to 11:30 am) and K-12th grade

See details online @ headwaters-academy.com

Please call if you would like additional information or to set up a tour and family 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; <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 1st Peter**

**with
Pastor Chris**

**Wednesdays
@ 7:00 pm**

NEW SUNDAY SCHOOL SERIES IN JANUARY

The Psalm Journey

Psalm 1 – 1/4	Psalm 69 – 5/10
Psalm 2 – 1/11	Psalm 73 – 5/17
Psalm 8 – 1/18	Psalm 78 – 5/24
Psalm 14 – 1/25	Psalm 84 – 5/31
Psalm 19 – 2/1	Psalm 90 – 6/7
Psalm 22 – 2/8	Psalm 91 – 6/14
Psalm 23 – 2/15	Psalm 96 – 6/21
Psalm 24 – 2/22	Psalm 100 – 6/28
Psalm 27 – 3/1	Psalm 101 – 7/5
Psalm 32 – 3/8	Psalm 103 – 7/12
Psalm 34 – 3/15	Psalm 115 – 7/19
Psalm 37 – 3/22	Psalm 119 – 7/26
Psalm 39 – 3/29	Psalm 121 – 8/2
Psalm 40 – 4/5	Psalm 128 – 8/9
Psalm 42 & 43 – 4/12	Psalm 139 – 8/16
Psalm 46 – 4/19	Psalm 145 – 8/23
Psalm 55 – 4/26	Psalm 147 – 8/30
Psalm 63 – 5/3	

**QR Code
For Psalms
Commentary**



**QR Code
For Psalms
YouTube Playlist**



2025

DECEMBER

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

			6:40 pm Winter GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Youth Outreach		6pm Parent Night Out (Registration Required)	Youth Progressive Dinner
	1	2	3	4	5	6
6:00 pm Christmas Homecoming	8	9	6:40 pm Winter GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Stewardship Mtg	11	12	High Country Christmas (Pastor Scott)
7			10			13
6:00 pm Kids Christmas Play	15	16	6:40 pm Winter GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting	18	19	20
14			17			
6:00 pm Candlelight Service	22	23	Church Office Closed No Services	Merry Christmas Church Office Closed	26	27
21			24	25		
No PM Services	29	30	No Services			
28			31			