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SOUTH
BAPTIST CHURCH

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

SouthRiverBaptist.com

Periodical

SEPTEMBER 2026

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Chris Thompson, Senior Pastor
Rev. Scott Townsell, Pastor for Missions & Families
Rev. Michael Copeland, Pastor for Fam & Biblical Counseling
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

EACH SUNDAY

704-876-1520	8:15 AM	Morning Worship
980-829-3163	9:30 AM	Sunday School
678-603-0290	10:45 AM	Morning Worship
704-397-6965	5:45 PM	GROW Students/Kids
336-707-2886	6:00 PM	Evening Worship

EACH WEDNESDAY

704-928-9882	6:40 PM	GROW Students/Kids
336-830-1670	7:00 PM	Prayer Service/GROW
704-881-1459		
704-876-1520		
704-876-1520		

*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.*

SOUTH
BAPTIST CHURCH

Volume 27, Number 1

CURRENTS

September 2026

A New GROW Begins September 13th



SouthRiverBaptist.com

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear South River Family,

Now that the children and students are back at school, it is important to consider how we are embracing new opportunities to grow in our personal spiritual walk. Sunday morning worship is essential for every believer. It is the time when we gather to celebrate our awesome God, to remind one another of His amazing forgiveness and sustaining grace, and to allow His Spirit to work in us and through us ministering to one another. Too many have yet to realize their vital role in the growth of our congregation by finding a place to serve. Don't be negligent in doing your part of growing spiritually.

I encourage everyone to start this new church year by finding a **Sunday School class**. We have outstanding classes and teachers for all ages. Beginning on September 13, children and students will begin a new year of **GROW**. There is no better ministry to saturate your child's heart with Scripture while also having an enjoyable time. Middle school and high school students can also participate by studying together and growing in their faith. And there are classes for adults as well!

Men, lead your families to God's throne each week as the church gathers corporately for worship. Set the pace for spiritual growth in your home. God will bless you for your renewed commitment this year!

Blessings,
Pastor Chris

PRE-SCHOOL

GREETERS

SUNDAY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 6TH

8:15 AM Worship

Michelle Mullins
Savannah Mullins

10:45 AM Worship

Gracie Melton
Chely Mahler

6:00 PM Worship

Cricket Barnette
Patsy Burnette

SEPTEMBER 13TH

8:15 AM Worship

Debbie Sloan
Terry Aiken

10:45 AM Worship

Heather Melton
Annabella Kilcoyne

6:00 PM Worship

Cyndi Cook
Brenna Pence

SEPTEMBER 20TH

8:15 AM Worship

Sharon Hobbs
Terry Reid

10:45 AM Worship

Cheri Horner
Amelia Fox

6:00 PM Worship

Robin Stewart
Salem Grace Lyles

SEPTEMBER 27TH

8:15 AM Worship

Chrisy Stone
Kelly Hill

10:45 AM Worship

April Thompson
Danielle Moody

6:00 PM Worship

Heather Melton
Daphne Jensen

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2ND

Anita Long
Elizabeth Griffin

SEPTEMBER 9TH

Donna Lyons
Heather Melton

SEPTEMBER 16TH

Maritza Anderson
Heather Melton

SEPTEMBER 23RD

Brenna Pence
Heather Melton

SEPTEMBER 30TH

Katelyn Swinkley
Heather Melton

SEPTEMBER 6TH

8:00 AM

Martha M. - FD
Carol S. - SP

10:30 AM

Jenna & Emily S. - FD
Carol B. - SP

SEPTEMBER 13TH

8:00 AM

Sandra B. - SP
Brenda R. - FD

10:30 AM

Bridget M. - SP
Kimberly S. - FD

SEPTEMBER 20TH

8:00 AM

Bonnie W. - SP
Cindy H. - FD

10:30 AM

Mary K. - FP
Vernie R. - SP

SEPTEMBER 27TH

8:00 AM

Donna L. - SP
Patrica J. - FD

10:30 AM

Kate D. - SP
Bridget M. - FD

GRIEF SHARE MINISTRY

Please contact Steve Jenkins
at (980) 263-4134 for more
information about next
GriefShare Class



NEW MEMBERS

By Baptism:

Jack BeLue
Dawn BeLue
Jessica BeLue
Cassie BeLue

2025/26 MINISTRY BUDGET

YTD BUDGET GOALS as of 8/27/26	\$ 1,037,660.00
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	\$ 1,039,926.60

PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & FAMILIES

SOUTH RIVER MISSIONS/BETTER TOGETHER

One of the greatest lessons we continue to learn through South River Missions is that **Kingdom work is bigger than one church.**

On August 8, we had the opportunity to travel to Todd, North Carolina, and partner with two other *like-minded* churches for outreach in both **Todd and Banner Elk**. Together, we were able to serve these communities, provide meals, build relationships, and most importantly, create opportunities to share the love and truth of Jesus Christ.



Churches coming alongside other churches to help grow the Kingdom is something we need more of. Ministry should never become territorial. We aren't competing with other Bible-believing churches, we should be laboring alongside them. When we can partner with churches that share our commitment to the truth of God's Word and the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we can accomplish far more together than we ever could alone.

This spirit of partnership has been a major part of South River Missions. Throughout the summer, we have continued working with churches and ministry organizations through food distributions, community meals, and outreach opportunities. God has also blessed us with resources that allow us to serve in ways we could not have imagined just a few years ago.

Now we are looking toward a busy *fall and winter season*.

Our upcoming Fall Festival will give us the opportunity to reach our own community on our own grounds, and we are excited to put our **48-foot mobile kitchen to work**. This kitchen isn't simply another piece of equipment; it is a ministry tool that can go where people are and help us build relationships around a meal while pointing people toward Christ.

Then, on the *Saturday before Thanksgiving*, we will once again participate in **Thanksgiving for Thousands**. This year, we are preparing **4,500 Thanksgiving boxes** that will then be picked up and distributed to families all over the western part of NC. It will take many hands, many partners, and much prayer to make it happen.

Thank you for continuing to *give, serve, and pray* for South River Missions. Every meal, every box, every partnership, and every outreach has one ultimate purpose: **that people might hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.**

Want to get involved? Contact **Heather Melton** and ask to be added to our mission's email list. There is a place for you to serve!

DEEP & WIDE YOUTH MINISTRY

Summer is over but we continue to grow...

This summer at camp, our students focused on one incredible truth: Immanuel - God with Us. We were reminded that God’s presence is not something we experience only during a week at camp. When the buses pull back into the church parking lot and students return to school, sports, jobs, relationships, and everyday pressures, God is still with them.

That truth has become a foundation for where we are headed this fall.

On Wednesday nights, our students have begun a 15-week study called “Prepare to Thrive.” Our goal is simple: we do not want our students merely to survive in an increasingly godless culture; we want to equip them to thrive while faithfully following Christ in the middle of it.

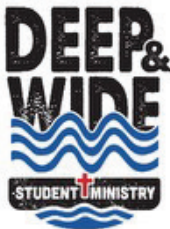
To thrive biblically does not mean life will always be easy or that our students will never struggle. It means learning to stay rooted in God’s truth, grow in Christ, and faithfully live out what they believe, no matter the environment around them.

Throughout this study, we will address biblical truth, spiritual disciplines, worldview, critical thinking, emotions, identity, peer pressure, relationships, the church, and living on mission. But our emphasis will continually return to one question: If I really believe what God says, how should that truth change the way I live?

Our desire is not simply orthodoxy—right belief—but orthopraxy: putting right belief into practice. We want God’s Word to move from their heads, to their hearts, and ultimately into their everyday walk.
Please pray for our students as we challenge them each week to:

KNOW IT. THINK IT THROUGH. LIVE IT OUT.

We are recording these and you can listen to the on our “Grow or Die” podcast.



BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Savannah Mullins | 22 Hunter Baldwin |
| 3 Hilda Cook | Michael Johnson |
| 4 Alena Dowdle | Nora Mae Stewart |
| 5 Aaron Johnson | 23 Kevin Robertson |
| Nicole Johnson | 24 Cyndi Cook |
| 6 Walter Cook | David Johns |
| 7 Jan Estes | Michael Jensen |
| Steven Baldwin | 25 Cindy Gibson |
| 9 Cricket Barnette | Matt Mersfelder |
| Randy Ober | Peyton Johnson |
| 12 Mary Kirkpatrick | 26 Mary Jane Ribelin |
| 14 Danny Griffin | Trevor Mahler |
| 16 Mark Carter | 27 Clara Paige Beatty |
| Austin Hill | Danny Williams |
| 19 Stephen Bennett | 28 Hannah Kilcoyne |
| Tara Beatty | Patricia Gordon |
| Westin Fox | Penny Lippard |
| 20 Kelly Hill | 29 Abbie Robertson |
| 21 Eric Davidson | Nelson Cook |
| Raylan Mills | Tammy Pearman |

ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER

- | |
|------------------------------|
| 3 Matt & Kimberly Mersfelder |
| 5 John & Shawna Wilson |
| 6 Billie & Sherrie Haithcox |
| 11 Gregory & Alissa Coulombe |
| Shane & Erica Barnette |
| 14 Eric & Tammy Davidson |
| 17 Gabriel & Natalie Karr |
| 18 Lynn & Linda Moose |
| 19 Ken & Kinnan Johnson |
| Rick & Maggie Baumberger |
| Raymond & Sandra Ketchem |
| Jason & Jenna Sherrill |
| 22 Dewayne & Penny Lippard |
| Kevin & Nicky Robertson |
| 25 Randy & Tamatha Stewart |
| 27 Brian & Sandra Boan |
| David & Melissa Earnest |
| 28 Johnny & Jean Isenhour |

FAMILY & BIBLICAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

Dear South River Baptist Church Family,

Thank you for how you have loved, cared for, and welcomed me and my family. We know we are loved and pray you also know that the Copeland family loves you. When we have had friends and family members ask how this first month has been, our response has been, “It has been ‘exceedingly abundant above all that we ask or think.’”

What has been abundantly true is you love the Word, the Lord, and one another. What a blessing and testimony of God’s Spirit at work! We are very excited for what the Lord has in store and seeing how the river will keep flowing.

In Christ,

Pastor Michael

WORSHIP MINISTRY

RIVER WORSHIP CHOIR

6th AM I Will Always Sing of the Cross
13th AM The Family of Grace
20th AM Until Then
27th AM The Church Triumphant

PM Labor Day - No PM Services
PM Worthy of Worship
PM Not What My Hands Have Done
PM Psalm 139 (Lord, You Have Searched Me)

SPECIAL MUSIC

6th AM Sherwin Johnson
13th AM Lydia Thorpe
20th AM Jerry Long
27th AM South River Gospel Quartet

PM Labor Day - No PM Services
PM Darlene Estes
PM Taylor Hedrick
PM Salem-Grace Lyles

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 SCHEDULE

GROW Year 4
Begins September 13th



NEW MEMBER CLASS



**Mark Your
Calendars**

October

3rd - Missions Breakfast
24th - Fall Festival

HEADWATERS ACADEMY



HEADWATERS CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
PATRIOTS

Registration is OPEN for the 2026-2027 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:
Sweet Hour of Prayer
Principles to Grow in Our
Fellowship with God Through
Prayer
with
Pastor Chris

Wednesdays@ 7:00 pm

RIPPLEKIDZ MINISTRY

Something To Share

I recently listened to something on YouTube that I would like to share with you. It has some insightful things and thought-provoking ideas. I hope you will reach out to me so I can pass it along to you. It's worth a half-hour to listen to.

You can message me at 704-928-9882

Privileged to serve,

Timothy Clendenin,

Children's Ministry Associate

2026

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			6:40 pm GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting		Pork Butt Sale P/U Warehouse 3pm to 6pm	
		1	2	3	4	5
Start Answers in Genesis No PM Services	Labor Day Headwaters Closed Church Office Closed		6:40 pm GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
5:30 pm GROW 6:00 pm 7 Laws of Teaching		3:00 pm Senior Food Boxes	11:00 am Headwaters Chapel 6:40 pm GROW Financial Planning 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting 8:00 pm Stewardship Mtg			Men's Sportman Event 1:30 pm to 7pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
5:30 pm GROW 6:00 pm 7 Laws of Teaching	Headwaters - Teacher Work Day 8:00 am Headwaters Teacher Training 1/2 day		6:40 pm GROW Financial Planning 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting			Pregnancy Center Life Walk 8:30 am to 11:00 am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
5:30 pm GROW 6:00 pm 7 Laws of Teaching			6:40 pm GROW Financial Planning 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting			
27	28	29	30			