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SOUTH RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH
2659 South Chipley Ford Rd.
Statesville, NC 28625-8712

SouthRiverBaptist.com

Periodical

OCTOBER 2026

OUR CHURCH STAFF

Dr. Chris Thompson, Senior Pastor	704-876-1520
Rev. Scott Townsell, Pastor for Missions & Families	980-829-3163
Rev. Michael Copeland, Pastor for Fam & Biblical Counseling	678-603-0290
Rev. Tony Craver, Church Administrator	704-397-6965
Dr. Alton Cook, Pastor for Congregational Health	336-707-2886
Timothy Clendenin, Children's Ministry Associate	704-928-9882
Wynston Lyles, Worship Ministry Associate	336-830-1670
Kim Williams, IT Support & Headwaters Administrator	704-881-1459
Heather Melton, Ministry Assistant	704-876-1520
Carole Ireland, Financial Secretary	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 RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH
CURRENTS
Volume 27, Number 2
October 2026

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

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear South River Family,

On October 24, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, we will be hosting our annual Fall Festival at South River. There are three ways you can leave an impact on our community.

First, this is designed to be a church-wide event. For the children there will be games, candy, and bounce houses. We will have a hayride for families and there will be food, fellowship, and a few other surprises. Please mark your calendar now to join us on that Saturday.

Second, pray now and invite those in your area of influence to the event. We all know a family or friend that needs Jesus and a church home. This is a great opportunity to introduce them to our church's location, our church family, and our love for Christ. Bring these individuals with you that day!

Finally, find a place to serve in some way during the event. You can serve at information booths, setting up and tearing down, as well as directing traffic for parking. Every Sunday School class can identify how they will facilitate a game booth or other elements of the event. Let us all make this enjoyable for everyone.

As a body, we are an organic unity, made up of members who are dependent upon one another in the exercise of life in Christ. Just as every part of the human body is essential to the function of the body, so too every member at South River is critical to the weekly function of the church. God has gifted every member in a unique way to minister to another portion of the church family. Let us help you find your gifting and place of service as we minister each week at South River.

Blessings,
Pastor Chris

PRE-SCHOOL

SUNDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 4TH
8:15 AM Worship
Michelle Mullins
Savannah Mullins
10:45 AM Worship
Gracie Melton
Chely Mahler
6:00 PM Worship
Cricket Barnette
Patsy Burnette

OCTOBER 11TH
8:15 AM Worship
Debbie Sloan
Terry Aiken
10:45 AM Worship
Daphne Jenson
Allie Pence
6:00 PM Worship
Cyndi Cook
Salem-Grace Lyles

OCTOBER 18TH
8:15 AM Worship
Sharon Hobbs
Terry Reid
10:45 AM Worship
Cheri Horner
April Thompson
6:00 PM Worship
Business Mtg - No Nursery

OCTOBER 25TH
8:15 AM Worship
Chrisy Stone
Kelly Hill
10:45 AM Worship
Melanie Thompson
Danielle Moody
6:00 PM Worship
Heather Melton
Robin Stewart

WEDNESDAY SERVICES

OCTOBER 7TH
Anita Long
Elizabeth Griffin

OCTOBER 14TH
Donna Lyons
Donna Williams

OCTOBER 21ST
Maritza Anderson
Heather Melton

OCTOBER 28TH
Brenna Pence
Katelyn Swinkey

GREETERS

OCTOBER 4TH
8:00 AM
Martha M. - FD
Carol S. - SP
10:30 AM
Jenna & Emily S. - FD
Kate D. - SP

OCTOBER 11TH
8:00 AM
Sandra B. - FD
Brenda R. - SP
10:30 AM
Bridget M. - FD
Kimberly S. - SP

OCTOBER 18TH
8:00 AM
Cindy H. - SP
Donna L. - FD
10:30 AM
Mary K. - SP
Vernie R. - FD

OCTOBER 25TH
8:00 AM
Libby C. - FD
Patrica J. - SP
10:30 AM
Carole B. - FD
Bridget M. - SP

GRIEFSHARE MINISTRY

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

NEW MEMBERS

By Letter

Michael Copeland

Megan Copeland

By Baptism

Austin Sherrill

Brianna Evans

Mackenzie Murphy

Statement of Faith

Vernie Robinson

2026/27 MINISTRY BUDGET

YTD BUDGET GOALS	$ 84,908.00
TOTAL GIVING TO DATE	$ 74,838.52

PASTOR FOR MISSIONS & FAMILIES

South River Missions - The Gospel Going Forward

Missions at South River is for everyone! We intentionally provide opportunities during the week and on weekends so everyone can find a place to serve. And even when you cannot physically participate, you can always be involved through prayer and giving.

The next few months are going to be busy.... But GOOD!

We have decided to postpone our annual October Missions Fund-raiser as we prepare for something fresh next year: a **South River Missions Motors and Machines Show, Swap Meet, and Breakfast!** We believe this will give our church and surrounding communities a new way to participate in our mission efforts.

I'm also looking forward to meeting with several churches in parts of Western NC about potential partnerships; coming alongside congregations seeking to grow and reach the communities where God has placed them. This will look a lot like our partnerships at Bristol Drive and War, WV.

October 26–27, we will serve alongside our partners at Mountaire Farms during their breeder meetings. That Thursday, we will partner with one of our GROW missions, **Ebenezer's Children's Home**, cooking approximately **1,500 chicken plates** at Memorial Park in North Wilkesboro. This helps them to continue to better serve foster children in the western parts of North Carolina.

In November, opportunities include **Feed the Farmer**, outreach at **YokeFellow on November 13** with food, prayer, and Gospel conversations, and packing **4,500 Thanksgiving meal boxes November 20–21** for distribution throughout Western North Carolina.

God has also blessed us with resources to share. Just this past week, we received **two tractor-trailer loads of toys** that are already being redistributed throughout our community and surrounding areas.

Thank you to everyone who continues to serve. Through football teams, community events, food distributions, and everyday conversations, people are hearing God's Word, Gospel conversations are happening, and we have seen some fruit by having families visit our church from these events.

That is what South River Missions is about; The Gospel Going Forward!

DEEP & WIDE YOUTH MINISTRY

Standing When Everyone Else Bows

On Wednesday nights, our Deep & Wide students have been walking through our **Prepare to Thrive** series. Our goal is not to teach students how to hide from the world around them, but how to grow in their walk with Christ while faithfully living in it. Jesus did not pray that His followers would be taken out of the world, but that they would be kept while living in it (John 17:15–18).



This past Wednesday, we studied Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego and challenged our students to consider what it means to stand when everyone else bows.

One of the most important distinctions we discussed was the difference between a preference and a conviction.

A preference is something I am willing to change. A conviction is a firmly held belief rooted in God's Word that governs how I live, even when obedience is difficult or costly.

Our preferences can differ. We do not all have to like the same music, dress the same way, enjoy the same activities, or make identical choices in areas where Scripture gives freedom. But our convictions must be rooted in the ***absolute truth*** of **God's Word**, not in feelings, popularity, culture, or what everyone else is doing.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego knew God was able to deliver them from the fiery furnace, but their obedience was not dependent upon deliverance. Their answer was essentially, ***"God can deliver us...but even if He does not, we will not bow."*** ***(Daniel 3:17–18)***

That is the kind of faith we want our students to develop.

We cannot remove them from the world. We can help prepare them to live faithfully in it.

Our prayer is that they will not merely survive the world around them but thrive; growing daily in Christ, rooted in His Word, and standing firm when everyone else bows.

You would like to catch up on this series, check it out on our ***Grow or Die*** podcast.

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

6 Billie Haithcox
Chris Keever
Michael Lyon
Daryl Martin
7 Dennis Stewart
John Wilson
8 Cambrie Lee
Jerry Long
Dylan Mankos
Matthew Pence
Kaylie Robertson
9 Cassandra Chege
10 Salem Estes
Riley Fernandez
Emily Fisher
Brittney Griffin
Toyie Templeton
11 Ty Jensen
Carolyn Sprinkle
12 Ethan Barnes
Benjamin Dowdle
13 Robbie Taylor
15 Molly Townsell
17 Samuel Thompson
18 Steve Jenkins
Doris Marsh
Laura Waddill
19 Bryce Weston
20 Tonda Lowman
Carson Weston
21 Libby Campbell
25 Evy Wenzel
Addy Wenzel
26 Ellen Pope
27 Teddy Campbell
Jeff Fox
Jennifer Hedrick
Linda Hermoso
Tony Smith
29 Walter Chrastina
30 Tammy Davidson
Lydia Thorpe

ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER

2 Joseph & Mary Kirkpatrick
3 Brandon & Hanna Lefever
5 Trace & Sidney Hedrick
Larry & Cathy Johnson
Josh & Jen Wall
6 Tyler Anna-Lisa Goodman
7 Walter & Marie Chrastina
8 Gene & MaryDellinger
10 Elijah & Eli Pope
12 Michael & Lexi Copeland
15 Jerry & Peggy Koch
Dave & Nancy Snyder
17 Howard & Julie Martin
23 Michael & Stephanie Wilhelm
24 Charles & Almedia Campbell

FAMILY & BIBLICAL COUNSELING MINISTRY

Dear South River Family,

I remember learning in biology when I was in middle and high school the mitochondria is the power house of the cell. When Scripture describes our heart, we see that the heart is the powerhouse of the person. Everything we do flows out of our hearts. Our hearts are where our emotions, volition, and desires all flow from.

We must constantly be asking ourselves, "How am I doing with guarding my heart?" and "What is it I am practically worshipping?" We are worshipping creatures and everything we do flows out of what it is we are worshipping. This is terrifying news because whenever we sin it is rooted in not worshipping Jesus. However, this is exciting news because this means the solution is worshipping Jesus!

A great follow up question when we realize what it is we are practically worshipping is, "How is Jesus better?" How does Jesus offer a greater comfort than where I have been searching for it? How does Jesus satisfy loneliness when nothing and no one else will? How does Jesus provide happiness that far surpasses anywhere else I look for it at?

Jesus is better. Let's fight to worship him. Let's fight to guard our hearts with vigilance.

In Christ,

Pastor Michael

WORSHIP MINISTRY

RIVER WORSHIP CHOIR

4th	AM	Who Is Like The Lord	
11th	AM	The Risen Lamb of God	
18th	AM	Sing To The Lord	
25th	AM	Let The Church RIse	
	PM	Praise Is The Offering	
	PM	How Great Is Your Love	
	PM	Business Mtg - No Choir	
	PM	The God I Serve	

SPECIAL MUSIC

4th	AM	Sherwin Johnson	
11th	AM	Sydney Hedrick	
18th	AM	South River Gospel Quartet	
25th	AM	The Elders	
	PM	Salem-Grace Lyles	
	PM	Jimmy Williams	
	PM	Trace Hedrick	
	PM	South River Gospel Quartet	

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

WOMEN'S MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE





Mark Your Calendars

November

3rd - Election Day
5th - Women's Prayer 6pm
7th - Pumpkinfest
12th - Feed the Farmers
21st - Feeding the Thousands
22nd - Thanksgiving Meal 5pm

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.

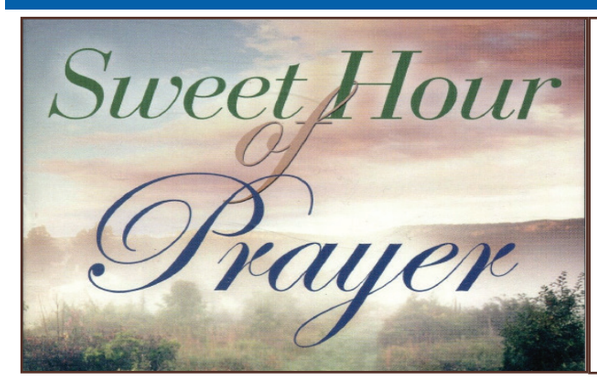
Scan to apply or contact Kim Williams for more details at 704-881-1459 kim@southriverbaptist.com; https://headwaters-academy.com/volunteer/

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

Opportunities at The Fall Festival

Each year, we have a great opportunity to share the Gospel. Of course, we do every day, but we are blessed at our church with wonderful events to preach the Good News, share the love of Christ, and be a light in this dark world.

Our Fall Festival takes place October 24th, and there are so many ways to get involved. Running a game or helping people find a place to park is not simply a job to do; it's the opportunity to share the love of Jesus with a lost and dying world. We are part of a church with so many gifted individuals! If you aren't sure where to serve, please reach out to Kim Mersfelder or me. From games to the prize tent and everything in between, we would love to get you plugged in during this festival.

People are hurting and need encouragement. People are lost and need direction. People are in darkness and need the light. People are desperate and need hope. And we have a simple way for you to share all those things with our community. Why wouldn't you want to be a part of such great kingdom work that can have everlasting blessings?

Privileged to serve,

Timothy Clendenin

2026 OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	HCA Closed - Teacher Workday 2	3
4:15 pm RippleKidz Play Practice 5:30 pm GROW 6:00 pm 7 Laws of Teaching 4	HCA Closed - Teacher Workday 5	6	6:30 pm Financial Planning 6:40 pm GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Women's Bible Study 7	8	9	10
4:15 pm RippleKidz Play Practice 5:00 pm ICSO Scam Awareness Class 5:30 pm GROW 6:00 pm 7 Laws of Teac 11	12	13	6:30 pm Financial Planning 6:40 pm GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Women's Bible Study 8:00 pm Stewardship Mtg 14	15	16	17
4:15 pm RippleKidz Play Practice 5:00 pm Fall Festival Volunterr Mtg 6:00 pm Business Mtg 18	19	3:00 pm Senior Food Boxes 20	11:00 HCA Chapel 6:30 pm Financial Planning 6:40 pm GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Women's Bible Study 21	22	Fall Festival Setup 23	Fall Festival 11am - 2pm 24
4:15 pm RippleKidz Play Practice 5:30 pm GROW 6:00 pm 7 Laws of Teaching 25	26	27	6:30 pm Financial Planning 6:40 pm GROW 7:00 pm Prayer Meeting & Women's Bible Study 28	Wilkesboro Outreach 29	30	31