

THE INFORMER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CHERAW FIRST BAPTIST

VOL. 6 ISSUE 2 • OCT 2026



All Aboard for a Day of History, Fun & Fellowship!

VIP DAY TRIP

NC TRANSPORTATION MUSEUM
SPENCER, NC

Includes a Scenic Train Ride!

 | OCTOBER 8TH  | 8:00 AM  *Lunch to Follow!*



CHERAW VIP • DOING LIFE TOGETHER

CHURCH-WIDE FALL CARNIVAL

OCTOBER 28TH AT 6:00 PM

Come for the Fun, Stay for the Fellowship!



AT 7:00 PM
IN THE
MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

FAITH | WHOLE CHURCH | COMMUNITY | FUN

From the Pastor's Desk

Pastor Rod



"Then take care lest you forget the LORD, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." — Deuteronomy 6:12

In contrast to our tendency to become despondent, discouraged, and disgruntled when facing adverse circumstances, I think of the apostle Paul who, from the bowels of a Roman dungeon, deprived of all but the most basic necessities of life, wrote in a thankful note, "Indeed I have all and abound. I am full" (Phil. 4:18 NLT).

His friends had largely abandoned him; his enemies were numerous and relentless. Whatever creature comforts he had enjoyed at one time were now far away and probably destroyed. From a human perspective, he was stripped bare of everything but mere existence, and yet . . . he considered himself to be full.

It is good to remember these words: a grateful heart is a full heart, whereas an unthankful heart is an empty one.

The difference between being full and empty is not usually the difference between rich or poor, at home or away, cupboards bursting or thinly lined with soup cans and Ramen noodles. The difference, almost always, is gratitude.

Steve Dale, a syndicated columnist who answers people's questions about their pets, received an email from a reader seeking advice regarding her twelve-year-old boxer that was at risk of losing one leg to a cancerous tumor. Dale responded that three-legged dogs actually adjust fairly quickly after surgery and are soon getting around nearly as well as before. "The psychological trauma of being expected to feel sad because they've lost a limb just doesn't seem to occur. Instead, quite the reverse, they act overjoyed to be alive."

Maybe as we approach this month together, we need to be more like Paul or a three-legged dog. To have a full heart even when deprived of wants and pleasures, rather than an empty heart despite being surrounded by God's abundant blessings.

Gratitude is often the difference between pervasive sadness and pure satisfaction. While it isn't the month of November quite yet, we have much to be grateful for as individuals and as a church.

But if you feel like you have been emptied of gratitude, make a mental or written "gratitude list" of what God has provided for you and see if you don't begin to have a heart that is full.





Sunday Mornings

Sunday morning small groups, nursery, preschool church, kids church, and all-access are going well. Nursery children will be learning about Noah's Ark and how God keeps His promises while our other children will be exploring what it means to be obedient to God.

Sunday Nights

On Sunday nights, we are continuing our study on the parables where Jesus used stories and situations people understood to teach them important truths about God and how He calls us to live. We want kids to do more than remember the "stories." We want them to understand what Jesus is teaching and let His truth shape how they live.

Sexual Abuse Awareness Training

Thank you to the 106 people who participated in the Sexual Abuse Awareness Training. We have 106 sets of eyes on our children, youth, and those that volunteer in children and youth ministries. We have 106 people equipped to recognize patterns of behavior to help protect the ones that are entrusted to our care. Thank you for standing with us in this commitment.



Three children on three different Sundays gave their life to Jesus. Praise the Lord!



Why do you serve in Cheraw Kids?



I serve in CK, because I love building meaningful connections with kids and being a steady, encouraging presence in their lives as they grow in their faith.

- Hope Burch



I serve in CK, because I want children to know they are seen, known, and loved by the Father. I want them to know Him now so that as they grow up they can have a deep, meaningful, and intimate relationship with Jesus. Then one day, I will watch them pouring into the lives of other people, sharing The Father's love.

- Mary Kait Parker



Cheraw Women ♥

FAST Friends♥

— BRING A BAG LUNCH —

October 11th @ 11:30am

QUICK CONVERSATIONS.
♥
LASTING CONNECTIONS.

New table.
New friend.
New connection.
♥

Short chats
NEW PEOPLE

Great laughs
REAL CONNECTIONS

Stronger together
SISTERHOOD

Prayer Service

October 7th
@ 6pm
Worship Center

SOUTH CAROLINA Jazz Festival

OCTOBER 15 - 18 2026

CHERAW, SC

CELEBRATE JAZZ LIKE DIZZY GILLESPIE!

Samaritan's Purse OPERATION Christmas Child

Bring Hope TO A CHILD AROUND THE WORLD

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

Shoeboxes will be **DISPERSED**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

PACK A SHOEBOX. SHARE THE GOSPEL. CHANGE A LIFE.

MEN'S MINISTRY

FISH FRY

OCTOBER 13TH

6:00PM

CHERAW MEN
IRON SHARPENS IRON

GREAT FOOD. GREAT FELLOWSHIP. STRONGER TOGETHER.

GET AWAY. GET FOCUSED. GROW TOGETHER.

MEN'S Retreat

A WEEKEND TO REFRESH YOUR SOUL AND STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH.

NOVEMBER 13-15
FRIDAY EVENING – SUNDAY MORNING

at **CAMP McCALL**
— SUNSET, NC —

COST: \$100
(INCLUDES LODGING AND 5 MEALS)

GOD'S WORD & TEACHING

BROTHERHOOD & FELLOWSHIP

OUTDOOR FUN & RELAXATION

GOOD FOOD. GREAT COMPANY.

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT, REFLECT, AND GROW IN YOUR WALK WITH GOD.

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP: **OCTOBER 4TH!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION EMAIL KELLI@CHERAWFBC.COM



What Do Teenagers Need From The Church?

What Do Teenagers Need From the Church?

What do teenagers really need from the church?

A youth pastor buddy of mine recently asked me this loaded question, and I have been wrestling with the answer for almost a month now. It's easy to assume teenagers need better programs, more exciting events, or something that will keep them engaged. While those things can have their place, I believe teenagers need something much deeper from the church: truth, identity, belonging, and discipleship.

Teenagers need truth.

Our students are growing up in a world where truth is often treated as something personal and subjective. The church must lovingly and faithfully give them something solid to stand on. Teenagers need to know what God says, what Scripture teaches, and why the gospel matters. They don't need us to water down the truth—they need us to teach it with grace and compassion.

Teenagers need identity.

Our students are constantly being told to find their identity in their appearance, achievements, friendships, popularity, or whatever they see online. The church has the opportunity to remind them that their deepest identity is found in Christ. They need to know that they are not defined by what they accomplish or what others think of them, but by who they are in Jesus.

Teenagers need belonging.

Every teenager wants to know, "Do I matter? Is there a place for me here?" The church should be one of the places where they can answer those questions with a confident yes. They need adults who know their names, listen to them, pray for them, and genuinely care about them. They need to know that they aren't simply attending a youth program—they are part of the family of God.

Teenagers need discipleship.

Ultimately, our goal isn't simply to raise teenagers who attend church. We want to see teenagers who follow Jesus, become more like Jesus, and help others follow Jesus. That takes intentional discipleship. It means opening God's Word with them, having hard conversations, answering their questions, praying with them, and walking alongside them as they grow.

The church has an incredible opportunity to invest in the next generation. Teenagers don't need us to simply make church more entertaining. They need us to love them enough to tell them the truth, point them to their identity in Christ, give them a place to belong, and walk with them as they follow Jesus.

And that's a responsibility we all share.

Coming up:

5th Quarter:
October 30th

Elephant in the Pew
November 9th

ONE YEAR, ONE PURPOSE

OCTOBER 2026 • P3 WORSHIP

NO LONGER THE “NEW GUY”

As I approach one year serving full time at Cheraw First Baptist, I think I can finally retire the title “new guy”! Looking back, I’m grateful for what God has allowed us to do together. We’ve refreshed our rehearsals and schedules, gathered for Encounter Night, and established new devotionals and resources to help P3 Worship grow spiritually. We’ve also taken steps to begin to mentor young musicians and make room for them to serve.

What has surprised me most is how blessed this church is by people who volunteer week after week to worship our Savior and help lead others to Him. I’m deeply grateful for the love, support, and encouragement that both our church family and the P3 Worship team have shown me.

As we enter another year, my prayer is that we keep living out Colossians 3:23: whatever we do, we do it wholeheartedly for the Lord. May our worship deepen as our knowledge of God deepens. And may He lead us into what He has prepared next—for our church and for each of us.

Thank you for making this “new guy” feel at home. - Ronald

SCRIPTURE FOCUS “Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name
Psalm 115:1 give glory.”

Just as the seasons around us change, we walk through changing seasons in life and ministry.

Through them all, we continue to give God the glory, for He alone is worthy.

“FALL” INTO HIS PRESENCE: ENCOUNTER NIGHT



On Tuesday night, September 22, we gathered to slow down, pause our busy lives, seek Jesus, and make room for His presence. I know lives were touched and changed. Thank you to everyone who worshiped, prayed, served, and helped make the night possible.

FROM HIS PRESENCE...
TO THE MOST WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR

**CHRISTMAS
SPECTACULAR 2026**
DECEMBER 13

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

OUR P3 WORSHIP FAMILY

Every person serving on our worship and production

team has a story of God’s faithfulness. We’re

honored to introduce five more members of our P3

Worship family.



Rick Fisher
Electric/Acoustic Guitarist

Years ago, the starter went bad on my truck. I thought I had it all figured out: I had worked on a motorcycle and planned to use the \$41 I’d earn when its owner picked it up to buy a new starter. But the day passed, and he never came.

Later, a couple of guys stopped by to look at a Vega drag car I was building. One noticed the starter I’d taken out of my truck, asked about it, and offered to take a look. He fixed it.

My way would have cost \$41. God made a way that cost me nothing. I told the man God had used him and shared my faith with him. Philippians 4:13 “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.”



Sandy Garriss
Tech: Pro Presenter

As far back as I can remember, God had always been a part of my life, but Jesus wasn’t. I grew up in church and knew who Jesus was, but I didn’t KNOW Him. In my teenage and early adult years, I stopped going to church regularly. I still thought that I was going to heaven because I was a good person, and I even walked a church aisle and got baptized. But all I got was wet! And I still didn’t KNOW Jesus. It wasn’t until Todd got saved and we began attending and serving in a church that I knew I was not saved, even though I was doing all the “right things.” Then God began to show me just how lost I was. I got on my knees beside my bed and made sure that Jesus was the Lord of my life. After that, I KNEW Jesus. Now my life is dependent on Him ... The LORD is my shepherd.



Joey Polson
Acoustic/Bass Guitarist

For starters, I grew up in church but didn’t really take it too seriously. When I was 16, I was in a motorcycle accident and was hit by a car. At that point, I prayed to accept Jesus, but it wasn’t long before I was out in the world drinking and doing drugs. It was after I got married that I truly surrendered to Christ. God saw fit to keep me safe during my craziness in life and called me into the ministry. God is good, way better than I deserve.



Ronald Crawford
Music Minister

I was saved at an early age, but in my early teens, as I was going into my sophomore year of high school, I wanted to fit in with the “cool” crowd and do what I thought was cool. I eventually realized that the friends I had made at church were the ones leading me to be different. That summer, I fully gave my life to God. Even though I’m not perfect, I strive to be who God has called and created me to be. The amazing thing about this journey I’m walking with Christ is that He still uses and blesses me despite my flaws. I serve an awesome God!



Todd Bulter
Drummer

Thirty years ago this fall, a small group saw a need to start a contemporary service at Cheraw FBC. We practiced for about two months before playing the first Sunday at an 8:30 a.m. early service, with about 35 or so in attendance. A lot of life has happened since then for me as well as our church family. Members, leaders, and pastors have all come and gone, but the church and service haven’t stopped since that morning. I am thankful to be a part of our music ministry and for what God has done through the ministry for our community and church. It has been a blessing to me to share the love of music and ministry with such a great group of people. We are blessed!

PRACTICE. PRAISE. PRESENCE.

VIP MINISTRY

Each month, we will "spotlight" one of our VIP members. Feel free to send words of encouragement or even visit this member (with their permission, of course).

Spotlight of the Month

October

Betty Surratte

103 Virginia Ave, Cheraw

DOB: October 5

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN!

Attention all ministry leaders responsible for your department budget: please submit your 2027 budget requests to the church office no later than October 18th. Forms are available in the church office.



October 4

Oliver Carter

October 5

Betty Surratte

October 6

Melinda Boan
Betty Simmons
Teresa Whiteman

October 9

Drew Copeland

October 11

Josh Sandifer

October 12

Cameron Hurst

October 13

Brandon Perry

October 15

Avie Wild

GIVING

through
September 27

You can give online at
cherawfbc.com/give, through the Realm app

Text to give! Text **CFBC** to **73256**, followed by your gift amount (ex. \$50)

BUDGET
TO DATE:

664,037.79

GIVING:

609,044.91

SAFETY TEAM

Sunday, October 4

Bill McIntosh, Frankie Joyner, Jack Rhonemus, Brandon Pelfrey,
Mitch Harpe

Evening: No Evening Activities

Sunday, October 11

David Paschall, David Caulder, Randy Caulder, Terrie Caulder,
Darrell Burch

Evening: Todd Garriss & Jim Murray

Sunday, October 18

Tom Boan, Melinda Boan, Chris Sellers, Ron Watson,
Kenny Robertson

Evening: Jim Kennedy & Bob Whiteman

Sunday, October 25

Bobby Roberts, Jim Kennedy, Jay Hinson, Eric Jones, Keith Thomas

Evening: Tom Boan & Todd Garriss

Fall for Cheraw

Month of November

(stay tuned for more details)

October 18

Richard Ainsworth
Savannah Ange
Shelby Wynn

October 19

Travis Novinger

October 20

Todd Butler
Kailan Smith

October 22

Jonah Dyson
Milton Simmons

October 23

Connie Carroll

October 25

Brian Brown

October 26

Alex Chavis
Laurie Novinger

October 27

Brandon Pelfrey

October 28

Grant Cassidy

October 30

Patti Elvington
Cameron Wynn

October 31

Ana Rushing

October 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 6:30am Men's SWAT	3
4 No Evening Activities	5	6 Town of Cheraw National Night Out	7 6pm Prayer Time	8 VIP Mystery Day Trip	9 6:30am Men's SWAT	10
11 11:30am "Fast Friends" (Ladies) 5pm Cheraw Kids/Students Adult Small Groups	12	13 6pm Men's Fish Fry	14 11am Mid-Week Legacy Worship 6pm Equip Classes	15 Jazz Festival	16 6:30am Men's SWAT	17
18 5pm Cheraw Kids/Students Adult Small Groups	19	20	21 11am Mid-Week Legacy Worship 6pm Equip Classes	22	23 6:30am Men's SWAT	24
25 5pm Cheraw Kids/Students Adult Small Groups	26	27	28 6pm CFBC Carnival	29	30 6:30am Men's SWAT	31