



## From the Pastor

Greetings South River,

I hope that everyone had a blessed and happy Christmas. I pray that as we start the New Year it will be a time of continued faith growth and one filled with God's blessings.

As we start a new year at South River there is some great things in sight. One of the first thing that we will be doing – we will be starting in Confirmation Class during Life groups (Sunday School) in Sherry Crider's classroom; this is open to middle and high school age students.

Another thing we will be doing is starting a Long Range Visioning Task Force and Planning. In this we are seeking input from everybody at South River. We will do this by starting with a survey to gain some insight as to what direction or ideas that the congregation has for moving forward. How do we do better at reaching out with the Gospel? How do we improve areas that we are already engaged in? In this there are no bad ideas – there may be some that it's not practical to start at this time. We will be looking at 1, 5, & 10 year plans and steps to obtain them. Also, please let us know if you are willing to become an active part of this task force and implementation of goals.

This past year several members of the congregation started the Read the Bible in a Year Plan and a handful actually completed the journey. I applaud those who stayed with it, as I have heard some of the discussions throughout the year. We will do this again this year in a different format and hope many more will step up and follow through.

As we begin a new year it also means that committees will be changing, if you have agreed to serve please be part of the team and add your insight. In the same light, I encourage that Chairs of Committees reach out and encourage and utilize all of the members of the committee – you don't have to do it by yourself.

We also are working to work alongside other congregations in the community to have a unified presence of Christ in our community.

Peace and Blessings

AJ