

SOUTHSIDE CHURCH HENRY HISTORY:

Since 2005, we have dreamed of having multiple Southside Church locations on the southside of Atlanta. By God's grace, and when looking into planting a church in Henry County, we had seen thousands of people engage at our Peachtree City and Newnan campuses. We then looked at our database to see where people were attending Southside Church from around the southside of Atlanta.

Fast forward to February of 2015, Southside Ministries leadership began looking into possibly launching a third campus on the south side in Henry County. Through months of conversations, analytics, and networking, Chris Patton, the Southside Ministries Senior Pastor, had breakfast on June 24th, 2015, with TJ Hedges, who attended Buckhead Church, and they discussed the possibility of starting a church like Southside and Buckhead in Henry County. In August, two Southside Church small groups started in Henry which laid the foundation of a mighty team that was led to take a huge leap of faith.

With a tremendous amount of blood, sweat, and tears, a team of committed people decided to start Southside Church Henry at Strong Rock Christian School in Locust Grove. This team included TJ and Beverly Hedges, Chuck and Zohnna Watts, Shawn and Heather Goelz, and Suzanne and Kevin Williamson, among others.

Southside Ministries leadership had learned the best way to launch multi-site campuses was to have many people from an existing campus be willing to go to the next/new campus plant. This wasn't the case in Henry County, but in 2017, the hope was to organizationally take a step of faith by coming alongside this group, adopting it as a Southside campus, and beginning to hire staff, invest capital, and give support.

We hired our first Southside Henry Lead, Pastor Tim Rives, Children/-Student Director Gabe Walker, and Production Director Darnell Allen. We grew steadily and continued to look for a permanent location.

Then 2020 came! It was extremely difficult for all churches, to say the least. We opened our Southside Church Henry doors months earlier than our other Southside campuses.

Then, after years of searching throughout the Henry County area for a permanent Southside facility to have a home and impact the county, God led us to purchase our current property/facility at 1120 Village Parkway in Stockbridge. After six years of work, it was such a tremendous blessing to set up and tear down the spaces at Strong Rock Christian School in Locust Grove, where we started and were renting. This current facility in Stockbridge used to be a multi-site church campus of another church in the county that decided to shut down, so we were able to take advantage of the facility renovations and the opportunity to take a tremendous next step.

Through the generosity of so many who are engaged within our church, Southside Ministries, including all of our church locations, we were able to buy this facility and invest in renovations and upgrades to make it an irresistible environment. We moved into this space and brought on Brigitte Southern & Tyler Seabolt. Shortly after moving into this location, our Lead Pastor, Tim Rives, felt called to transition into a Teaching Pastor role at a church in Missouri.

We then immediately hired, from within, a new Lead Pastor, Matt Page. Shortly after that, Matt was called to move on from Southside Henry to be a full-time Navy Chaplain in Chicago. Chris Patton, our Southside Ministries Senior Pastor, stepped back in as an interim Lead Pastor.

In June 2023, we hired our fourth and current Lead Pastor, Jake Miller. Throughout these nine years, committed Southside Henry servant leaders/staff, along with Southside Ministries staff, have worked tirelessly to create a growing and thriving church in Henry County, seeking to reach the tens of thousands of unchurched and de-churched people living in Henry.