



Mecklenburg County



Mecklenburg County's relaxed hometown atmosphere is an ideal family environment. The county boasts a strong quality of life with its rich history and outdoor recreation featuring two major lakes – Lake Gaston and Kerr Lake (locally known as Buggs Island Lake). The lakes surpass a combined 1,200 miles of shoreline and 70,000 acres of water. The climate has four enjoyable and distinct seasons. There is quick access to Interstate 85 and US Highway 58 to easily travel in all directions. The area is centrally located between Richmond, Virginia and

Raleigh, North Carolina, and access to Virginia's beaches or mountains is only a 2½ hour drive. The estimated 2025 population of the county is 30,890. Complete demographics can be found at [census.gov](https://www.census.gov). Olive Branch is located in a community called Blackridge that is closest to the towns of Brodnax (pop 283), La Crosse (pop 614), Bracey, (pop 1,981) and South Hill (pop 4,709). South Hill is about a ten-minute drive from the church and has most of the local shopping, restaurants and services. The other major towns in the county are Chase City (pop 2,215), and Clarksville (pop 1,629). The county seat is Boydton (pop 308). For more information about Mecklenburg County go to [mecklenburgva.com](https://www.mecklenburgva.com). For more information about South Hill visit [southhillva.org](https://www.southhillva.org).

Recreation

Because of the lakes, there are many great places to enjoy fishing, boating, water sports, and camping. The local area also boasts great hunting, jogging/walking trails (Tobacco Heritage Trail), fitness centers, and five golf courses. South Hill is home to the historical Colonial Theatre.



Restaurants / Shopping



In the South Hill area, you will be able to eat at many fast-food restaurants (Arby's, Burger King, Bojangles', Dominos, Five Guys, Hardee's, KFC/Taco Bell, McDonald's, Papa Johns, Pizza Hut, Quiznos, Sonic, Subway, and Wendy's) as well as national restaurants (Applebee's and Cracker Barrel). Locally owned restaurants include Kahill's (American including seafood), Los Cocos (Mexican), Luca's (Italian), and Risin' Smoke (Barbeque). A Farmers Market is open on Saturday mornings for all your local items and other goods. Major retailers in South Hill are Walmart, Roses, TJ Maxx, Home Depot, CVS, Verizon, AT&T, Cricket Wireless, Tractor Supply Company, Harbor

Freight Tools, Hibbett Sports, Auto Zone, Advanced Auto Parts, O'Reilly's Auto Parts, Family Dollar, Dollar General and Dollar Tree. Groceries can be purchased at Walmart and two Food Lion stores. There are also plenty of quaint shops in the area that offer antiques, art, furniture and one-of-a-kind items. There are several hotels in South Hill including Hampton Inn, Fairfield Inn & Suites, and Holiday Inn Express.

Schools



Mecklenburg County Public Schools include four elementary schools and one middle/high school complex. The new county-wide Middle School and High School campus opened at the beginning of the 2022-2023 school year. Most Olive Branch children attend either La Crosse Elementary or South Hill Elementary. Our Lunch Buddies ministry is at La Crosse Elementary. Olive Branch teenagers typically attend the middle/high school. For more information about the county public schools go to mcpsweb.org.

There are also private schools in the area. First Christian School is in South Hill (10-minute drive from the church) and is a Christian school for children in preschool through 5th grade. Website: fcssh.com. Kenston Forest School is in Blackstone (50-minute drive from the church) and is a Christian school for K-12 grade students. Website: kenston.org. Crossroads Christian School is in Henderson, North Carolina (50-minute drive from the church) and is a Christian school for students in preschool-12th grade. Website: ccscolts.org. Brunswick Academy is in Lawrenceville (30-minute drive from the church) and is a private school for preschool-12th grade students. Website: brunswickacademy.com.

Southside Virginia Community College is in Alberta (30-minute drive from the church). Website: southside.edu. Some community college classes can be taken closer to the church at Lake Country Advanced Knowledge Center in South Hill (10-minute drive). Additionally, many major colleges in Virginia and North Carolina are within two hours.

Medical Care



VCU Community Memorial Hospital partners with VCU Hospitals in Richmond. Its current facility was completed in 2017. Medical services in South Hill include labor and delivery, many diagnostic tests, dialysis, rehabilitation, and cancer treatment. There is also a nursing home and assisted living facility. Many family doctors and specialty doctors serve in the area including dentists and optometrists. Most health care needs can be met in South Hill. When care is needed elsewhere, there are world-class hospitals and doctors only an hour and half away in Richmond, Virginia and Durham, North Carolina. The website for South Hill's hospital is vcuhealth.org.

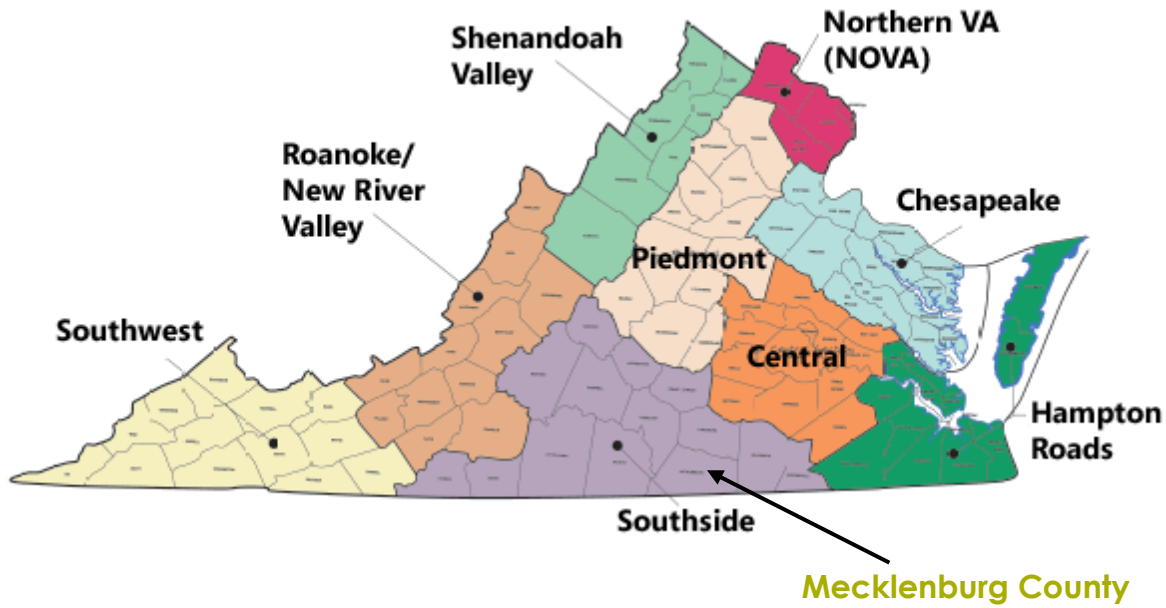
Distance to Major Cities

Durham, NC	72 (1 ½ hours)
Raleigh, NC	77 (1 ½ hours)
Richmond, VA	82 (1 ½ hours)
Lynchburg, VA	110 (2 hours)
Virginia Beach, VA	131 (2 ½ hours)
Roanoke, VA	175 (3 hours)
Washington, DC	188 (3-4 hours)

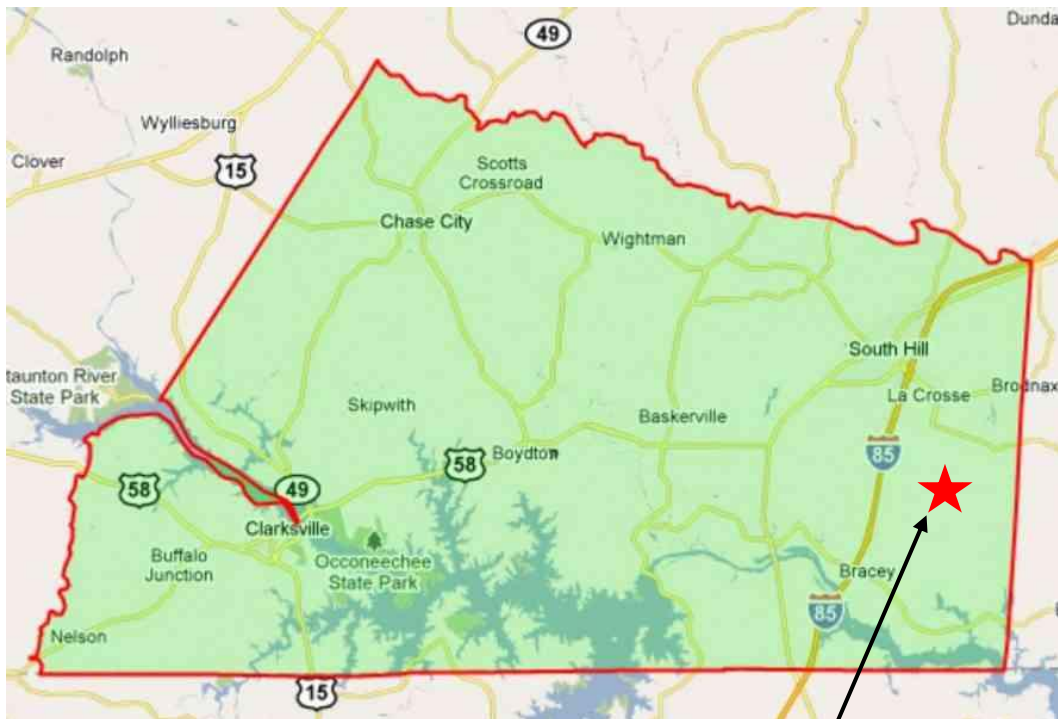
Helpful Websites

southhillchamber.com (South Hill chamber of commerce)
lakegastonchamber.com (Lake Gaston chamber of commerce)
southhillenterprise.com (local newspaper)
sovanow.com (local newspaper)
kerlake.info (lake information)
lakegastonguide.com (lake information)

Virginia



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Olive Branch Baptist Church