

We Don't Make Change

It was just me and some old man sitting and having a bite to eat in a pint-sized diner in the little town of Mayesville, South Carolina. You don't get to Mayesville by mistake. You have to mean to go there. It sits just outside of Sumter on 76 heading towards Florence, but you have to turn off of 76 to find it. Now remember to keep a close lookout 'cause it'll sneak up on you, and you'll fly by the turn before you know it.

Not much is left of the little town now, and that's a shame. From the looks of some of the old antebellum homes there, I bet she was a beauty in the flush of her youth. All that was left of main street 10 years ago when I sat in the diner, was a few broken-down store fronts, a three legged ladder back chair and what looked like a two or three story brick building that had mostly fallen down due to a long ago fire.

It was mid-July in South Carolina, so the old man sat at the counter alternating between reading the paper and fanning himself with it. I sat down in an ancient corner booth on a vinyl seat that had little round islands of cracks on it where many a fanny had rested over the years. I was facing what appeared to be a prehistoric Formica table, stained to within an inch of its life and wobbly as the dickens, but a couple of sugar packets solved that.

While the old man fanned himself, read and swatted the occasional fly, I watched him absentmindedly. There wasn't much else to do. There was no traffic to speak of and nothing else to watch.

It appeared that the old man didn't want company, and I wasn't feeling particularly congenial myself. So we just sat there in silence and waited patiently for lunch.

While we waited, the sweat traced its way down the middle of our backs, paused for a moment of reflection at our belt lines, and then pooled on the seats beneath us. The summer sun had defeated what little air conditioning the diner possessed. Thank God for forbearance and sweet tea. Amen?

Well, it took a little while, but after a spell lunch arrived. I didn't know what the old man ordered, but I ordered fried chicken. It seemed to me that was the only proper thing to order in a place like that; and let me tell you this, that chicken did not die in vain. That waitress/hostess/cook knew her business. Yes, I know that the chicken held within its flavorsome crust any number of coronaries; but Lord have mercy, did it hit the spot. With a side order of creamed corn and a buttermilk biscuit to top it off, I was set to get back on the road, or take a nap, whichever came first.

Well, that old man and me sat in silence and filled our bellies for a while, and then the time came to leave. We both finished at about the same time, and I was dropping the tip on the table when I heard him over at the counter talking to the waitress. From the timbre of the voices, I gathered that things weren't going too well.

Continued from page 1

As it turned out, the old fella had ordered nothing more than a glass of sweet tea and a grilled cheese. The total came to a little under three dollars. Yea, that was a while back.

When the time came for the old gentleman to pay for his sweet tea and grilled cheese, he handed the bedraggled waitress a \$100 bill. After giving the bill and the poor old fella a cold stare, I mean cold enough that he could've been her husband; she simply pointed to an old hand-written sign up above the coffee maker. That old yellowed sign was spotted with years of coffee stains and so dog-eared that you could barely make it out; but with some effort I finally read:

“Sorry, We Don’t Make Change for \$50’s and up”

Protestations aside, that fellow was unable to convince his rival that a one hundred dollar bill was all he had in his possession. She wasn’t about to budge. She put her hands on her hips and made it clear that she would brook no argument.

Well, I had better things to do than watch a thrashing, and from the looks of the waitress it wouldn’t be a fair fight anyway. That old man wouldn’t stand a chance. So I paid for the tea and the sandwich and the rest, and after bidding my erstwhile companions farewell, I headed on down the road in search of new adventures and fresh tales to tell.

As I drove away that afternoon I had to laugh. You see as difficult as that waitress may have been, she was no less ornery than most of us most of the time. Somewhere hanging in your heart as well as mine sits on old yellowed sign, dog-eared beyond all recognition, with the words scrawled upon it:

“I Don’t Make Change For Nothing.”

Come on, you know I got ya. All kidding aside though, we all know that change is simply part of life. Whether we like it or not, everything changes save the love of God; and with change comes stress, most of the time. Our success in this life as a people and as the people of God depends upon our ability to trust in our Father above and His never changing nature. With change comes stress, yes, but with trust comes peace.

James 1:17-18

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

NIV

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As we face change as a church, as a congregation, as individuals, we must remember that God is the God of stability. He is our refuge, He is our strength.

Whatever God was before, He is now and always will be. Neither His power, nor His wisdom, nor His truth, nor His compassion, nor His love have ever or will ever change. God has always been and will always be a stronghold behind which His children can shelter in a storm. He does not change, and He will see us through whatever we are facing.

It might be difficult. It might well feel impossible to make it through, but Christ never falters, He never fails. Upon Him you can rely.

So grab the hem of His garment, hold on for dear life, and enjoy the ride.

Love,

Pastor Tony

O Lord, let my
New Year's resolution
be to
follow you
more closely
and to
trust in your
loving guidance.



Many thanks to Nancy Barnhill for putting together the beautiful memory quilt for Pastor Tony and Mary.

The congregation wrote notes to Tony and Mary back in September and October for the quilt.

The completed quilt was presented on December 15th prior to the Children's Christmas Program.

We will miss Tony and Mary once they begin a new chapter in their lives and ministry as "RETIRED."

We look forward to seeing them back at Beulah to worship with us!

Women's Ministries Team News

Join us in the Social Hall following the second service at **11:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 12th** to plan for 2025 activities. Trish Conn and Stacey Shull are ready to hear your ideas and fill up the calendar!

The **Women's Retreat to Asbury Hills** has been rescheduled for March 28-30, 2025. Please save the date!



**GLOBAL
METHODIST CHURCH
SOUTH CAROLINA**

As of December 22nd, \$76,565 has been received toward the goal of \$200,000 to cover the cost of separating from the UMC. Thank you for donating!

...THE SEARCH FOR A NEW PASTOR...STAY TUNED FOR MORE NEWS...

As of the printing of the newsletter, there was no news that could be shared at this time. Should you have questions, please ask one of the SPRC members. Please be patient as the process can be lengthy and must be done to ensure that everything is in order.

Committee Members: Nancy Barnhill, Valerie Rowe, Angie Shuler, Ed and Chris Swansegar, Jonathan Vega, Alice Wilson, Donnie Woolsey

The Global Methodist Church **Book of Doctrines and Discipline** may now be found on their website: globalmethodist.org. Printed versions will be available soon.

VISIT THE GLOBAL METHODIST CHURCH OF SC WEBSITE: WWW.GMCOFSC.ORG FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE GLOBAL CHURCH AND EVENTS.

GriefShare Ministry

January 12, 2025 - April 6, 2025 / 4-6 p.m.

A new 13-week session of GriefShare begins Sunday, January 12th, 4 - 6 p.m. Meetings will be held in the Social Hall each Sunday. GriefShare is a video and workbook driven ministry, offered to those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

Sign up online (griefshare.org/findagroup) or contact Mary Rowell (mkrowell@twc.com or 803-463-8974).

Ladies Getting to Know You Lunch

January Schedule

Thursday, January 9th - 11:30 a.m.

La Mesa, 4456 Augusta Hwy., Gilbert

Thursday, January 23rd - 11:30 a.m.

Cribbs Sandwich Shop

108 S. Church St., Lexington

BEULAH CLOTHES CLOSET

January 11, 2024

9:00 AM—1:00 PM

FALL AND WINTER CLOTHES ON SALE FOR MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

CHECK US OUT FOR GREAT DEALS ON GENTLY USED OR NEVER WORN CLOTHING.

DISASTER RELIEF

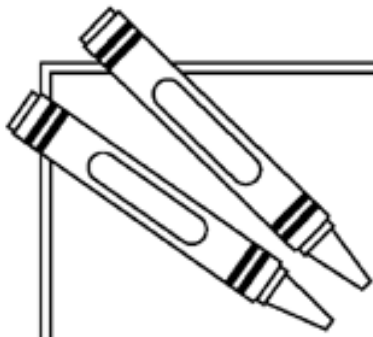
Skip Price (Pete's Welding) is continuing to build wood stoves for those affected by Hurricane Helene in North Carolina. The cost of the stoves is \$250. A fund has been set up for Disaster Relief to help with the cost. This fund may also be used for other relief requests once the stoves have been made and delivered. If you would like to donate, please mark checks for "Disaster Relief." Thank you!



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE CLOSED	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3	4
5 Communion Sunday 8:30am Cont Svc 9:40am Jr/Sr Youth and SS 10:30am Trad Svc	6 Epiphany 10:00am DWJ in FLC 6:30pm Bible Study - SH	7 9:30am Bible Study in CR	8 9:45am DWJ fast 11:00am DWJ med 12:00pm DWJ beg 7:00pm Praise Band	9 11:30am Ladies Luncheon	10 9:00am Moms Morning Out	11 9:00am Clothes Closet
12 8:30am Cont Svc 9:40am Jr/Sr Youth and SS 10:30am Trad Svc 11:45am Women's Ministries Mtg SH	13 10:00am DWJ in FLC 6:30pm Bible Study - SH	14 9:30am Bible Study in CR	15 9:45am DWJ fast 11:00am DWJ med 12:00pm DWJ beg 7:00pm Praise Band	16	17 9:00am Moms Morning Out	18 9:00am FLC Reserved
19 8:30am Cont Svc 9:40am Jr/Sr Youth and SS 10:30am Trad Svc	20 Martin L. King, Jr. Day Newsletter Article Deadline 10:00am DWJ in FLC 6:30pm Bible Study - SH	21 9:30am Bible Study in CR	22 9:45am DWJ fast 11:00am DWJ med 12:00pm DWJ beg 7:00pm Praise Band	23 11:30am Ladies Luncheon	24 9:00am Moms Morning Out	25
26 8:30am Cont Svc 9:40am Jr/Sr Youth and SS 10:30am Trad Svc	27 10:00am DWJ in FLC 6:30pm Bible Study - SH	28 9:30am Bible Study in CR 6:30pm Trustees in CR	29 9:45am DWJ fast 11:00am DWJ med 12:00pm DWJ beg 7:00pm Praise Band	30	31 9:00am Moms Morning Out	1

MMO—Mom's Morning Out DWJ—Dancing with Joy SS—Sunday School CR—Conference Room
 Cont Svc—Contemporary Service SH—Social Hall Trad Svc—Traditional Service
 SPRC—Staff Pastor Relations Committee FLC—Family Life Center
 GMC—Global Methodist Church



Just for KIDS

New Year's Resolutions

Use the code to read some important words to live by.

CODE:	A=1	D=4	H=8	L=12	P=16	T=20	X=24
	B=2	E=5	I=9	M=13	Q=17	U=21	Y=25
	C=3	F=6	J=10	N=14	R=18	V=22	Z=26
		G=7	K=11	O=15	S=19	W=23	

8 1 22 5 14 15 15 20 8 5 18 7 15 4 19

2 5 6 15 18 5 13 5

8 15 14 15 18 25 15 21 18 6 1 20 8 5 18

1 14 4 13 15 20 8 5 18

4 15 14 20 13 9 19 21 19 5

7 15 4 19 14 1 13 5

11 5 5 16 20 8 5 19 1 2 2 1 20 8

8 15 12 25

12 5 1 18 14 20 8 5 20 5 14

3 15 13 13 1 14 4 13 5 14 20 19

Answer: Have no other gods before me. Honor your father and mother. Don't misuse God's name. Keep the Sabbath holy. Learn the Ten Commandments.

8:30 AM SCRIPTURE READERS

Jan 5 - John Wilson
Jan 12 - Bryce Taylor
Jan 19 - Brett Reeder
Jan 26 - Mollie Beth Wilson

8:30 AM CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jan 5 - Sue Ellen Shealy
Jan 12 - Valerie Rowe
Jan 19 - Jean Young
Jan 26 - Tony & Mary Rowell

8:30 AM USHERS

Jan 5 - Wilson Family
Jan 12 - Tom and Vickie Ferguson
Jan 19 - Ken and Lynne Stott
Jan 26 - Taylor Family



Altar Flowers

Jan 5 - Open
Jan 12- Leslie Proctor
Jan 19 - Nita Spence
Jan 26- Open

If you would like to place flowers on the altar in memory or in honor of someone, please call the church office: 803-892-2842.

10:30 AM SCRIPTURE READER

Steven Dawson

10:30 AM CHILDREN'S SERMON

Jan 5 - Dianne Smith
Jan 12 - Nancy Barnhill
Jan 19 - Sue Ellen Shealy
Jan 26 - Tony & Mary Rowell

10:30 AM USHERS

Ken and Angie Shuler, Jessica Skipper, Marc and Mimi Eglin

10:30 AM GREETERS

Cindy Price and Julie Robinson

JANUARY COUNTING TEAM

Donnie and Karen Woolsey, Julie Robinson, Elsa Mims

December Attendance Average: Worship Services: 147 Sunday School: 16 Streaming: 234
July 1, 2024 - December 22, 2024 Income: \$ 229,417.10 Expenses: \$236,609.75

Thank you to my Beulah Methodist Church family for your prayers while I was in the hospital and after I came home. They were greatly appreciated. The calls, cards, and visits were all very encouraging. The flowers were lovely when I arrived home. Thanks to Beulah for the beautiful poinsettia and the cookie exchange goodies. I am doing better now. God bless you and have a Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. ~Rose Nix

Beulah Church: **Thank you** for the prayers, cards and lovely peace plant. I can not tell you how much it means to me during my healing process from my surgery. I love each one of you. God bless you all. ~Duane Rast

Dear Beulah Church Family: We would like to express our **sincere appreciation** for the thanksgiving meal provided to our mother, Matha Garlock, and her roommate, Ms. Jean Shealy, at LMC Extended Care. They thoroughly enjoyed the delicious meal and the fact that they were being remembered and thought of in such a kind and generous manner.

We would also like to take this time to express our appreciation for the visits, cards and especially your continued prayer for our precious Mama.

With love and gratitude,
Cindy, Rene' and Missy



JANUARY

birthdays

If you have a birthday or wedding anniversary this month but it is not listed, please call the church office. (803-892-2842)

DAVID	FLUKER	01/01
SERETHA	SOX	01/01
JOYCE H.	MCCLURE	01/04
WESLEY	BINKLEY	01/05
JANET	POWER	01/05
MARY	BOSWORTH	01/07
CONNIE	SEASE	01/07
DONNA	DOOLEY	01/08
DONNA	LEAPHART	01/08
STEVEN	WOODYARD	01/08
WYATT	BINKLEY	01/09
PEYTON	WOODARD	01/09
TAYLOR	GANTT	01/10
REGINA	HEYWOOD	01/11
RANDY	POWER	01/11
THERESA	GEORGE	01/12
JOHN	WILSON	01/12
MADISON	PRICE	01/13
SHANNON	PERRY	01/14
JAMES	PRICE	01/14
CHARLES "CHUCK"	WALLACE	01/14
ALICE	WILSON	01/14
COLIE	BRADWELL	01/16

ROCKY	PRICE	01/17
TONY	SMITH	01/17
CINDY	CAPNERHURST	01/18
D BRIAN	TAYLOR	01/19
DESTINY	RISINGER	01/20
JODY	SWYGERT	01/20
JUSTIN B	LANGFORD	01/21
KATE	SHEALY	01/21
CASEY	ATTAWAY	01/22
STEPHANIE COOK	SMITH	01/22
RICKY S	SMITH, SR	01/22
BETH	ALTENBERG	01/23
SIAH	DAVIS	01/23
ASHLEY TAYLOR	GASKINS	01/24
AARON BRYANT	CLINE	01/26
STELLA ANN	PORTER	01/26
SAMUEL "SAM"	WOODYARD	01/26
JOHN	BARNHILL	01/27
GAIL	PROVOST	01/29
LAYNE	SEASE	01/29
VICKIE H.	FERGUSON	01/30
TERRY	THOMAS	01/31



JANUARY

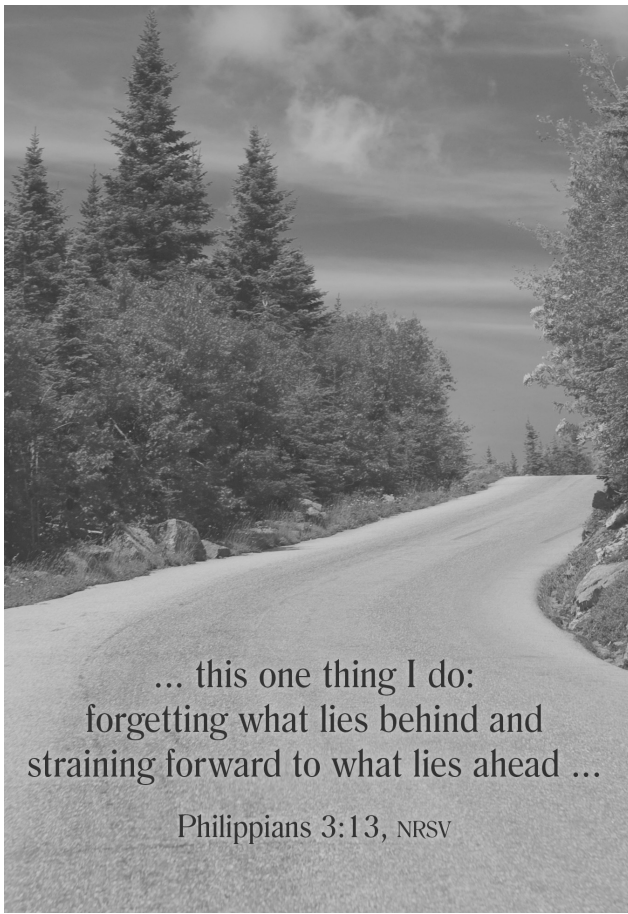
anniversaries

M/M LORAN	JERALD	01/06/1978
M/M RONALD	KREPPS	01/16/1954
M/M A CARL	TOMPKINS	01/19/1964
M/M WAYNE	CLAMP	01/22/1959



Dancing with Joy

Start the new year off right! Get back in shape with Dancing with Joy! Ladies and men of all ages are welcome. Free!



... this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies ahead ...

Philippians 3:13, NRSV



Resolutions: (fill in the blanks)

1. Pray
2. _____
3. _____
4. Pray for _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. Pray more



"Hey, could we have some volunteers
to stay and help clean up?"

Volunteers are greatly appreciated! How can you help?

Join the team of people who set up for the early service each week.
Contact Chuck or Judy Knight.

Join the rotation of folks sharing the Children's Message.
Contact Sue Ellen Shealy.

Visit the homebound or folks in assisted living and nursing homes.
Contact Janna Davis or the church office.

Fun, Food & Fellowship serves approximately 100 community members every other month. Contact Theresa George if you can help in February.

Get in on the rotation for reading scripture, ushering or greeting.

Contact Sandy Lorey (Contemporary Service) or Karolyn Berg (Traditional Service) or call the church office.

Become a member of one of the counting teams. Contact the church office if interested.

If you see something that needs to be done, let Karen or Derinda know and they will pass it on to the appropriate person.

Thank you for sharing your time and talents!

PRESCHOOL STUDENTS WERE GREETED WITH SNOW DURING THE LAST WEEK OF SCHOOL!



Congratulations to our preschool director, Hollis Lohse, on the birth of her daughter Claire! Many thanks to Elizabeth Ortiz for filling in for Hollis while she is out.

Thank you very much to the preschool teachers and children for helping with the Children's Christmas Program on December 15th. The children did a wonderful job sharing the story of the birth of Jesus.

Thank you to all of the children of Beulah!

Fun, Food, and Fellowship (FFF) continues to thrive. We were honored to host 100 community members on Tuesday DEC 10, sharing our love and celebrating God, our country, and one another.

The surrounding Gilbert, Batesburg-Leesville, Pelion, Lexington, and West Columbia communities, as well as Beulah itself, want to thank Sandra Woodard for her many years of volunteering her time, creativity, and effort to help produce the ministry. She is our BINGO queen, and we will always remember her 20 years of dedication to FFF. Being a major part of the ministry was "one of the best things she has ever done." She will emotionally pass her love for the job to others in 2025.



We extend blessings to Theresa George and her tireless kitchen crew, who manage the delicious meal for those in attendance and beyond. So much more than a two-hour luncheon goes into producing the meals; she and the well-run kitchen volunteers are eager to welcome FFF guests next year.

FFF occurs only one Tuesday every two months, starting in February. It also requires set-up the afternoon before. While this note of appreciation is heartfelt, it is also a call for help. We need assistance in the Family Life Center before and during the event.

If you have an interest in lending assistance with these worthwhile community events, please call Susan Wright at 864.980.2885 or call the church, leave your number, and I'll call you.

With love and appreciation,

Susan Wright



Lillian Kaminer
803-828-3288
Jenni-Lynn Assist. Living
Rm 6
915 Hook Ave.
West Columbia, SC 29169

John Sease
151 St Marks Rd
Leesville, SC 29070

Barbara Krepps
167 E. Drake Rd
Gilbert, SC 29054

Martha Garlock
Lexington Extended Care
Crews Pt. Rm 207
815 Old Cherokee Rd
Lexington, SC 29072

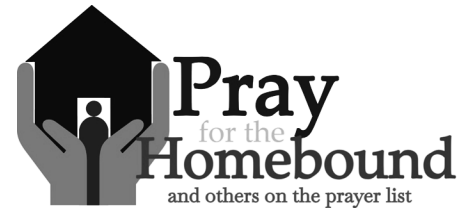
Rose Nix 803-359-3521
115 Kings Way
Lexington, SC 29073

Pat Ellis
2356 Island Way
Little River, SC 29566

Alan and Carl Tompkins
803-892-2816
616 Tom Drafts Circle
Gilbert, SC 29054

Dot Oswald
Lexington Extended Care
Rm 265B
815 Old Cherokee Rd
Lexington, SC 29072

Wayne & Gladys Clamp
445 Shore Rd
Gilbert SC 29054



Roy Sox
The Heritage at Lowman
Rehab & Health Care Center
PO Box 444
White Rock, SC 29177

Seretha Sox
529 Canasta Drive
Gilbert, SC 29054

Chuck Wallace
134 Vista Oaks Dr
Lexington SC 29072

Bill Tarte 803-307-9699
956 Wildwood Circle
Leesville, SC 29070

**IN OUR
THOUGHTS AND
PRAYERS**

Betty Armstrong
Russel Bickley
Barbara Brown
Lillian Brown
Aubree P. Buchanan
Karen Carter
Harriet Cotterman
Brenda Crosby
Bobby Davis
Tyler Dennison

Matt & Natalie Derrick
Robert Drafts
Rachel Ferrell
Tim Garrett
Virginia Gates
Jane Goodwin
Todd Hall
Pastor William Hightower
Jim Johnson

Tom & Ursula Lain
Chris Leaphart
Carl Lybrand
Donald Mack
Debbie Moore
Debbie Myers
Patty Page
Arlen Peterson
Rebecca Porter

Bill Segar
Betty Shealy
Jason Smith
Randy Smith
Missy Stamper
Bill Thornburg
George Warnke
Michael Watkins
Tony Wells

Monday Night Bible Study

Monday Night Bible Study begins a new study on Monday January 27. Our study will be a 12-week study by David Jeremiah, *Luke - The Compassion of Christ*. If you would like to join us, please let us know so that we can be sure to have a study guide available for you. On January 27, we will distribute the study guides, review the introduction and provide an overview of the study.

Please email, text or call Sandy Lorey at 734-552-8690, dslorey427@gmail.com, or Debbie Demidow at 803-466-7564, debbiedemidow@yahoo.com and let us know if you would like to participate. Our Monday Night Bible Study meets at 6:30 pm in the Social Hall Library. All are welcome to attend! We look forward to seeing you on January 27.

Beulah Methodist Church of Gilbert
161 Beulah Church Road
Gilbert, SC 29054
www.beulahmethodistgilbert.org

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

OFFICE CLOSED: Jan. 1, 2 & 3

6th - Epiphany

9th - Ladies Lunch at LaMesa

11th - Clothes Closet Open - 9 am - 1 pm

12th - Women's Ministries Meeting -11:45 am

12th - GriefShare - 4-6 pm

23rd - Ladies Lunch - Cribbs Sandwich Shop

Beulah Newsletter

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161 Beulah Church Rd.
Gilbert, SC 29054
www.beulahmethodistgilbert.org

Rev. Tony Rowell, Pastor
Derinda Ulmen & Karen Woolsey, Secretaries
Office Phone: 803-892-2842
Email: beulah1@beulah161.net