

Worship Order for 220 Year Celebration
Sunday, April 26, 2026

Prelude:	“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”	
Call to Worship:	Psalm 89:1-2	Pastor Daniel Maggard
Congregational Song:	“You Are Good”	
Choir Anthem:	“All To Us”	
Welcome and Introductions:	Pastor Cameron DeBrew	
Congregational Songs:	“Only A Holy God” “Cornerstone” “God of This City”	
Message:	“What Do These Stones Mean?” Joshua 4:1-5; 20-24	Dr. James “J” Thompson
Congregational Song:	“Standing on the Promises”	
Closing Prayer:	Pastor Ken Addison	

A church-wide dinner will be served in the fellowship hall following the service.

We welcome Dr. James “J” Thompson and his wife Donna to our celebration today. “J” served as pastor of Beulah Baptist Church from September 1980—February 1994. Under Pastor Thompson’s leadership, the church relocated from the Church Gate of McEntire ANG off Congaree Road to our current location on Garners Ferry Road. Now retired, he and Donna live in the upstate and enjoy life with their children and grandchildren.

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In 1962, Beulah Baptist Church commissioned William Cox Allen to write the church's history. This was a massive undertaking, covering 156 years, from Beulah's beginning in 1806. Dr. Allen and the historical committee from Beulah compiled and published an extensive historical document demonstrating how God had used the faithful believers in the Lower Richland community to not only establish a church, but also to impact the surrounding community and the world by sharing the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

That little green book has been a valuable resource to generations of Beulah members and history buffs alike. To my knowledge, there are only a few of these books remaining. The church currently maintains a couple copies and some of our more seasoned members or former pastors may still have a copy. With that said, I feel an urgency and a duty to "catch-up" the canon of Beulah's long and rich history to the present. This year we celebrate 220 years of existence. It is an incredible grace from our Lord to be a small part of the long life of this congregation evangelizing and ministering to our Lower Richland community, our city, our state, and our world.

This undertaking is not as ambitious as Dr. Allen's since he had to summarize and document 156 years of history. Our task is to document the past 64 years (1963-2026). Thankfully, we have several members in our congregation who have been present during this 64-year period. It has also been my privilege to have served on the pastoral staff since 1993. It is my prayer that this publication will serve as a resource for those who follow in fulfilling the call of Christ to, *"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* Matthew 28:19-20

The members of the historical committee and myself also believe it is helpful to provide a brief summary of the events documented in the first 156 years. We are grateful to have Dr. Allen's book, "The History of the Beulah Baptist Church," as our primary resource for this summary. Three additional sources are also referenced: "A Bit About Beulah," and "Beulah Baptist Church – A Brief History." Both documents were written in 1996 in celebration of the 10-year anniversary of being in our new building located on Garners Ferry Road (held on Sunday, January 19, 1997). Also referenced is "The History of Beulah Baptist Church," written by former member Beiman Otis Prince, which was written for the church's bicentennial celebration (held on Sunday, April 30, 2006).

I am blessed to be a part of the rich history of this church and I am excited for the years ahead!

Cameron DeBrew—Lead Pastor

Historical Committee

Mason Brooks
John Motley, Jr.
Lisa Norris

1806 On April 26, 1806, about 30 people with letters from Congaree Baptist Church met at Minerva Academy and were constituted into Beulah Baptist Church.

Dr. Jonathan Maxey, the first president of South Carolina College (now the University of South Carolina) preached the first sermon from 1 Peter 2:5. Amos DuBose was called as pastor and he accepted.

1809 Since the beginning, the members of Beulah understood the mission to spread the Good News of the Gospel and to foster communities desiring to start new churches. In the capital city of Columbia, there was a group of Baptist believers who had organized to become a church, but they had no place to meet. Hearing this dilemma, Isaac Tucker, a licensed preacher of Beulah Baptist Church, with assistance from Captain John Bostick, a member of the Congaree Baptist Church in Gadsden, donated the land for a meeting house to be built. This new church would later be known as First Baptist Church Columbia.

1828—29 Some records reflect Beulah moved to a new location in 1828 on a lot donated by Robert Adams on the east side of Cedar Creek, the same lot where the church cemetery is presently located. Other records reflect it was the new building that began at this location in 1828 since the church continued to use the Minerva Academy Hall until August 1829.

One account of Beulah's History states that from 1828 until the Civil War the church grew and flourished. A Bible School was established and the church manifested a deep interest in missions.

1860's—70's The ravages of the Civil War had taken its toll on the church's programs and spiritual accomplishments. Conditions steadily worsened, and the threat of extinction hovered over the few remaining members. The building was about to be taken over by others, but a man by the name of Adams (whose ancestors gave the land) moved his family into the building using it as a dwelling until 1873. The post-war years were an exceedingly difficult time. When the slaves were freed, many of the black members and attenders of Beulah Baptist came together to establish New Light Beulah Baptist Church. Located a short distance away on the west side of Cedar Creek, New Light Beulah Baptist Church is now located at 1330 Congaree Road, Hopkins.

1879 There was no real progress until about 1879 when the Rev. John Barron, from Texas, (probably a traveling evangelist as noted in some records) came and held a three-week revival. At the closing of the meeting, 33 were baptized into the fellowship. Since this meeting was so satisfactory, he was sought after as the pastor and he agreed to serve for one year.

1888 Records reflect a total of 79 members.

1892 On December 25, 1892, after the Sunday morning service, the church surprised Pastor Rev. C. A. Stiles with a brand-new buggy and a new harness for Brother Stiles' faithful "Old Gray." The pastor expressed his thanks, saying he thought this was the happiest day of his life.

The Early 1900's seemed to be a period of difficulty with finances and paying the preacher. Some members were even disciplined for not giving regularly. Much effort was made to pay the pastor as had been agreed upon.

1901 April 13, 1901—A Constitution and Bylaws were adopted. It gave duties of church officers to include the pastor, deacons, secretary/treasurer (clerk), and a sexton.

1917 January 14, 1917—Dr. L.J. Bristow, Superintendent of the Baptist Hospital, served as pastor for the rest of that year.

1923 June 10, 1923—Rev. J.K. Hair of Great Falls, SC was called as pastor to begin services in July at a "support" of \$800.00 per year, payable quarterly.

1924 May 4, 1924—Learning of the destruction of Lebanon Methodist Church building by a tornado on the 30th of April, the members of Beulah extended heartfelt sympathy in the loss of their house of worship and offered for them to use the Beulah church building. Beulah members were encouraged to contribute to replacing said buildings. Among those resting in peace in the Beulah Cemetery are three third grade boys who died in that tornado which also destroyed Horrell Hill School. The boys' names were Charles Koon, Mahlon Rae Motley, and Willie Ray Sloan.

1934 February 1934—Beulah's church building burned down. Although the building was completely destroyed, miraculously, all the contents were saved. The people of Lebanon Methodist offered their church building, but instead the members chose to use Horrell Hill School. Services were held at the school until a new building could be erected. Subsequent meetings in early 1934 reflect decisions regarding rebuilding and whether to build at the same site or perhaps build at a site at Horrell Hill. Howell Morrell offered a tract of land next to Horrell Hill School. However, at a meeting on April 1, the members voted 68 to 43 to rebuild on the old site.

1940 September 15, 1940—Upon recommendation from the deacons, the church voted to elect the pastor annually, the same as other church officers. The reason for this was to address the matter on a "business-like" basis and not for any other reason.

- 1947** February 23, 1947—Rev. Coy Muckle served as pastor for Beulah and Eason Memorial Church in Eastover. The churches agreed to call a pastor who would serve both congregations. The church also voted to repeal the annual election of the pastor as it had proved to be an “obstacle in interested prospects.”
- 1953—54** In November 1953, both Beulah and Eason Memorial each decided to have a full-time pastor instead of a shared pastor. Rev. Muckle, who was wanted by both churches, elected to go to Eason Memorial. Beulah voted to call J. Stuart Hepler in early 1954, and he and his wife moved into a new parsonage. The church parsonage was built on a 1.4-acre lot located at 509 Horrell Hill Rd. Pastor Hepler’s first service was Sunday, February 14, 1954.
- 1956** September 23, 1956—The 150th Anniversary was held on this date. Dr. W.C. Allen, a former schoolteacher in the community who had also attended the 100th Anniversary in 1906, gave a presentation on the church's history.
- 1962** January 17, 1962—The church voted to have Dr. W.C. Allen write the church's history. The project was completed and published in 1962. This is a very in-depth and thorough record of Beulah’s history. It proved to be a valuable resource in compiling this document.
- 1965—79** Rev. George T. Light served as pastor from September 1965 until his death on June 19, 1979. Beulah prospered in many ways during his ministry. A very loving tribute was written by a church member which expressed the sentiments of love by the Beulah people for him and his love, care, and concern for the members.
- 1969** A new building addition was constructed—adding classrooms, a nursery, a kitchen, and restrooms.
- 1970s—early 2000s** The church sponsored a softball team in the City of Columbia Church Softball League. The team won numerous league championships and won the State Class A Amateur Softball Association’s State Championship in 1983.
- 1978** The relocation process to the present site began when the deacons received a letter from a member concerning possible relocation of the church building.
- 1979** A 4.5-acre parcel of land was purchased at 9487 Garners Ferry Road for the future relocation site. The current church building sits on this land today.
- 1980** Rev. James "J" Thompson was called as pastor in September.
The Cemetery Trust Fund was established. This led to the incorporation of Beulah Baptist Church Cemetery with perpetual care capability.

- 1984** A revised Church Constitution and Bylaws were adopted. The church voted to conduct a "Together We Build" Capital Funds Program to finance the new construction.
Dave Covington was hired as the first paid Youth Minister.
- 1985** Construction started on the present facilities at 9487 Garners Ferry Road, Hopkins.
- 1986** The new building burned on May 30, 1986, while under construction, just weeks from completion. Although grief-stricken over the loss, rebuilding was familiar to the congregation, and the building was fully completed in December. The last service was held in the old church on December 7, and the first service in the new building was held on December 14, 1986.

The church purchased 5.93-acres of land that adjoined the current property on Garners Ferry Road, resulting in a total footprint of 10.43 acres.
- 1989** The church voted to adopt the Long-Range Planning Committee's "Shaping the Future" report in which the church committed themselves to the following six goals and objectives: (1) Missions Statement; (2) Physical Expansion; (3) Stewardship; (4) Leadership Development; (5) Spiritual Growth; and (6) Outreach & Evangelism.
- 1990** The church voted to elect a five-person Steering Committee to select a capital funds campaign and to finalize plans for Phase II construction.

An additional 12.2 adjoining acres were purchased for future expansion, giving the church a total of 22.63 acres.
- 1991** Church membership reached 570; the deacons expanded to 18 in number; Sunday School attendance averaged 240 per week; the church approved a budget of \$244,000.

A dedication of a Memorial Building (Gazebo) was held at the Beulah Cemetery. The small structure is topped with the steeple from the former church building.
- 1992** Chet Andrews was hired as Summer Youth Minister. Later, the church voted he would remain as part-time Youth Minister. The church also voted to begin two Sunday School hours to accommodate the growing membership.
- 1993** In March, the church licensed Chet Andrews to Preach the Gospel.

Rev. Cameron DeBrew was called as the first full-time Minister of Music and Education and began his ministry in June.

Between the Years of 1993 to 2026, Beulah sent 29 mission teams to 21 different states. Most of these teams were made up of the church's youth and adult chaperones. There were several trips made by adults to provide disaster relief, pastor training, and leadership training.

- 1994** Rev. James "J" Thompson resigned as pastor in February.
Dr. Michael Gay was called as pastor in October.
- 1996** Chet Andrews resigned as Youth Minister to pursue a Divinity degree.
Ken Addison was called as part-time Youth Minister.
Dr. Michael Gay resigned as pastor in July.
- 1997** On Sunday, January 19, the church celebrated the 10-year anniversary of moving to the new location on Garners Ferry Road. The day was filled with celebration from the members and the community. The historical document "A Bit About Beulah" by John Motley, Sr. was included as a part of the program for the service and was also submitted to the South Carolina Historical Society. A portrait was drawn by Sally Marsh Antley depicting the three church buildings and copies of the drawing were made available to those in attendance. Beiman Otis Prince also compiled a book, "The History of Beulah Baptist Church," which, too, was made available.
In September, Rev. Richard Adams was called as pastor.
- 1998** The church voted to buy two modular units to provide additional space for Sunday School. Several years later they were used for Youth Ministry and were known as the "Youth Shacks." Currently these units house our Community Food Pantry and Clothes Closet.
- 1999** Rev. Richard Adams resigned as pastor in January.
Rev. Ryan Pack was called to serve as pastor in December.
In June, Ken Addison was called as the church's first full-time Youth Minister, after serving several years in a part-time role.
The church's website www.beulahbaptist.com was created.
- 2000** Stage lighting fixtures, a projector, and a screen were installed in the sanctuary.
- Early 2000s** A community tee ball ministry was initiated, and a ball field was built on church property.

Between the Years of 2000 and 2026, Beulah sent 47 international mission teams to six different continents. These teams did a variety of work: pastor training in Bangladesh, baby orphanage in Uganda, sports camps in Canada, World Changers in Australia, hurricane relief in Haiti, and many other types of mission work. Twenty-five of these teams were sent to Bamako, West Africa to work in a specific village (see 2007 for more information).

- 2001** In March, the church ordained Ken Addison to the Gospel Ministry.
- 2002** Members agreed to make the church parsonage available for rent because neither the pastor nor pastoral staff required church housing.
The weekly youth service grew so large it moved into the sanctuary on Wednesday nights.
- 2003** The church voted to sell the parsonage at 509 Horrell Hill Road for \$85,000.
A Facility Expansion Team was elected in order to recommend expansion of Sunday School and youth space.
- 2004** In January, a fund-raising program was initiated for the construction of new classrooms, additional office space, a pastor's office, and a youth building. This program was known as the "Forward in Faith" campaign.
Rev. Ryan Pack resigned as pastor.
- 2005** In August, Rev. Brad Bessent was called as pastor after serving as interim pastor.
In December, Ralph Walden was hired as the architect/contractor for building expansions.
- 2006** On April 30th, the church celebrated its 200-year anniversary with a special service followed by dinner on the grounds. There was also a special birthday cake cutting on Wednesday, April 26, to celebrate the occasion.
Church purchased and equipped a "Disaster Relief" trailer. Two church members made several trips in support of hurricane relief.
The growing membership made it necessary to provide two Sunday School hours and two worship services each Sunday.
In October, the church broke ground to begin construction on new additions.
- 2007** The building construction was completed. Additions included a standalone youth building called the Student Life Activities Building (SLAB), additional Sunday School classrooms, a larger pastor's office, a small conference room, bathrooms, and fellowship hall renovations.
Beulah returned to one Sunday School hour and one worship service.

Between February 2007 and January 2016, church members made 25 mission trips to West Africa and sent two individuals on extended, multi-month missions.

On February 2, 2007, after several months of prayer, planning, preparation, and training by the International Mission Board (IMB), a vision trip of four church members left for Mali, West Africa. The team had received, from IMB, the names of four people groups in Mali who, for the most part, had never heard the Gospel. The purpose of the trip was for the team to visit each of the four groups and then decide which group the team would recommend to the church for “adoption.” After prayerfully considering all four groups, the team was convinced God was leading the church to witness to the Bambara people group. The Bambara were the largest people group in Mali and were located across many remote villages. During the next ten years (2007-2016), Beulah Baptist Church sponsored 25 trips to witness to the Bambara people. The teams ranged in size from 2 to 12 people. Each person who went was responsible for raising their own funds to support their trip. The Bambara village in which the church’s “headquarters” were based was called “F-Village.” The Chief of this village gave Beulah a small piece of property on which a small mud hut was built to shield the teams from the weather during their stay in the village. Many lives were changed as a result of these trips—for both the Bambari people and mission team members. Two books, “Donkey Tails,” and “Donkey Tails 2,” were written and published by Rev. Brad Bessent, the pastor who provided the Africa mission vision. These books tell many stories that came from his experiences on the trips to Mali, West Africa.

- 2009** A community Food Pantry and a Community Clothes Closet were established and are currently housed in mobile trailers located on church property.
A new playground was completed in November.
- 2010** The church began providing a pre-game meal and presenting a Gospel message to the Lower Richland high school football team before every game. This is still done today (2026).
- 2011** The church voted to move from Church Bylaws to the newly drafted Church Guidelines. These Guidelines required the creation of a Church Advisory Team. This team works with the pastor and the pastoral staff to plan, advise, and lead the congregation in the everyday activities and responsibilities of the church. This team also leads in the absence of a pastor.
The church name was changed to “Church Unleashed at Beulah.”
In August, the church hosted the first annual Horrell Hill Teacher’s Breakfast where all teachers, administrators, and staff from Horrell Hill Elementary School are invited to gather at Beulah the week before school begins in the fall for a meal and a Gospel presentation. This has continued to the present date (2026).
- 2012** In July, the bond issue to assist with the church building mortgage was approved.

2013—2021 During this time period, the church faced many difficulties. There was a loss of membership, financial uncertainty, and a large debt remaining from the recent construction. However, God sustained the church through these tough times. A significant event that took place during this period was the debt retirement in November 2021.

Instead of calling an interim pastor or securing pulpit supply after Pastor Brad Bessent's resignation, the church decided to use the current pastoral staff (Rev. Cameron DeBrew, Rev. Ken Addison, and two lay pastors: Travis Roberts and Jeremy Lytle) to lead and teach until a pastor could be called.

2013 Rev. Brad Bessent resigned as pastor in April.

The church's name was changed back to Beulah Baptist.

In August, the church ordained Brian Hutchens and Travis Roberts to the Gospel Ministry.

2014 The church's missions' strategy was changed to include a wide variety of involvement with Mission, Ministry, and Community Partners.

2015 Rev. Cameron DeBrew was called as Lead Pastor in February. Cameron had served on the church pastoral staff as Minister of Music and Education since 1993. Rev. Ken Addison became the Teaching Pastor. Ken had served on full-time staff since 1999.

The church's public Facebook page, private Facebook group, Instagram page, and YouTube channel were established and used for communication to/from church members and to serve as an opportunity to engage the surrounding community. All Sunday morning sermons and special services are available on the church's YouTube channel. Online giving was also made available.

The Southeast suffered major flooding—devastating property across many southern states. Lower Richland and surrounding areas suffered great damage and loss. Many in the community were stranded due to roads being washed out. Homes and buildings were flooded and property was damaged. Beulah rallied to provide water and food to those affected. Church property was used as a community hub to stage equipment and supplies. The large 100-year oak tree at the cemetery fell and headstones suffered damage. A chain saw crew from a sister church in Alabama and our McEntire Joint National Guard Base neighbors helped remove this massive, downed tree. In addition, the roadway was washed away near the creek and access to the cemetery and McEntire gate was not available for an extended period.

In August of 2015, the church ordained Ben Stiles to the Gospel Ministry.

2016 A team was formed to serve the homeless in Columbia at Transitions. This team also served the Winter Shelter in downtown Columbia during the winter months.

2017

The church started to livestream worship services to Facebook. A Safety and Security Team was created. A monthly church-wide Missionary Prayer Focus was established.

The church celebrated 10 years of ministry and mission in Bamako, Mali, West Africa.

The celebration included former missionary to Bamako, Steve Roach, a Bamako resident and translator Amadomo Saye, and former pastor Brad Bessent who provided the church with the West Africa vision.

Between the years 2017—2026, the church worked closely with many Ministry, Mission, and Community Partners and provide prayer and resources for the work they do. Ministry and Missions Partners work to spread the Good News of the Gospel locally, in the US, and around the world. Ministry and Missions Partners provide children’s homes, adoption services, abortion prevention, collegiate ministry, international students ministry at USC and Benedict, and a variety of other Gospel-centered endeavors. Beulah has funded nine deep wells in India, West Africa, and Liberia which provides clean water to tens of thousands of villagers. Monies have also been given to provide care for children rescued from slavery in India and to adopt villages in India. The Church is also very involved with local partners, including local schools and Camp Cole (which works with disabled children and children with cancer). The annual Missions Fair BBQ is the primary fundraiser for these partnerships (see 2023).

2020

In March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic spread throughout the world. Governments shut down businesses, schools, and public gatherings. The state of SC also had strict regulations to limit public gatherings. Although church gatherings were not deemed illegal, many churches across the state and the nation chose not to gather in-person due to the potential risk of spreading the disease. Beulah suspended its in-person services for 12 weeks. However, the pastors provided livestream services for the congregation during this time and it soon became necessary that the church upgrade livestream equipment. Easter was celebrated virtually—both the Sunrise Service and Worship service were offered via livestream only. On Sunday, June 7, the church returned to in-person worship services and a “Re-Gathering Plan” developed by Pastoral Staff and Church Advisory Team was implemented over the next several weeks to restart Sunday School, Small Groups, and other ministry groups. Also, for the first time, Vacation Bible School was completely virtual. Five days of VBS were filmed and made available via the church website and social media pages.

During the COVID period, the church was able to upgrade video and audio equipment, upgrade Wi-Fi and building network equipment. Inside and outside security/surveillance cameras were also added to building.

The church moved from a monthly mailed newsletter to a weekly email-based newsletter.

In March, the church ordained Daniel Maggard to the Gospel Ministry.

- 2020—2021** Pastor Cameron DeBrew began a podcast to interview Mission, Ministry, and Community Partners called “Partner Connection.” Consisting of 10 episodes, the podcast allowed the membership to hear reports from our partners and the work they were doing during COVID shutdowns/restrictions.
- 2021** In October, Beulah hosted its first Trivia Night. These fun nights continue today and are held several times throughout the year.
- In November, the church paid off its \$1.2 million debt (funding new building construction) several months early. A Celebration Dinner was held at the newly built Camp Cole with a large gathering of members. A mortgage burning celebration was held on Sunday, November 14. With a history of the church building catching fire, the service was held in the fellowship hall, and the mortgage note was burned in a large pot.
- On November 1, the church voted to call Daniel Maggard to serve as part-time Community Missions Pastor.
- 2022** First year in 15 years without debt!
- There was an increase in giving to the Lottie Moon offering, Annie Armstrong offering, Columbia Metro Baptist Association, and the Cooperative Program.
- 2023** In May, the first annual fundraiser for Missions, Ministry, and Community Partners was held (Community Missions Fair BBQ). The monies raised at this event fund our missions giving and involvement with our Missions, Ministry, and Community Partners. Mission partners are present at the event, have a display with information, and provide updates about the work of their ministries. This remains a much-anticipated event.
- In June, the congregation came together to celebrate Pastor Cameron DeBrew’s 30 years of dedicated ministry, both on the pastoral staff and as Lead Pastor.
- 2024** The Safety and Security Team was re-created, a new Sunday School class for young adults was established, and hurricane relief was provided for victims of Hurricane Helene in Western North Carolina.
- In December, Dr. Tony Wolfe, Executive Director and Treasurer of the South Carolina Baptist Convention preached the morning worship service.
- In June, the congregation honored and celebrated Ken Addison for his 25 years of dedicated service on the church’s pastoral staff.
- 2025** A History Team was formed to “catch up” the church’s history in anticipation of the 220-year celebration and to provide a framework for our 225-year celebration in 2031.

2026 In February, the Beulah Homeschool Collective was created. Church and community homeschool students and parents meet collectively one day a week on the church campus for group lessons and activities.

On April 26, 2026, Beulah Baptist Church celebrated 220 years of faithful Kingdom service.

Changes to the Community

Over the past 20 years, the Lower Richland community has undergone steady growth and change to its landscape and infrastructure. Historically, Lower Richland has been a predominantly rural area, with agriculture playing a major role. Over the past two decades, much of the farmland has been replaced by new housing developments, small commercial centers, and light industrial and logistics uses, especially along Garners Ferry Road. The city of Columbia is rapidly approaching the Lower Richland community which is becoming less rural each passing year. This is a challenge and a blessing for the churches in the area. The thousands of new homes have brought tens of thousands of new residents. The challenges are the current roads, schools, businesses, and infrastructure struggling to accommodate the increased population. The blessing is a growing population who has the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus. There is an opportunity for existing churches to grow and fertile ground for new churches to be born.

Looking Forward

Today, Beulah is poised to continue to impact the Lower Richland community and the world with the Gospel. Members are united in mission and are faithful to the call that Christ has given to the church—to make disciples. It is because of the grace of God and the many generations of faithful and obedient believers in the church's history that this generation and this congregation now stand to take on the mantle of **Knowing Jesus and Making Him Known!** May we be the generation who is faithful to the task, and may God continue to guide the people of Beulah Baptist Church to primarily and fully seek God's will in expanding His Kingdom.

"So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit." Ephesians 2:19-22 (ESV)

Beulah Baptist Church Pastors

Amos Dubose	1806—1807	J.P. Isenhowe	1902—1907
Isaac Tucker	1807—1814	J.J. Myers	1907—1916
George Scott	1814—1828	L.J. Bristow	1917—1918
C.D. Mallary	1828—1830	A.J. Foster	1918—1919
Robert Missilldine	1830—1830	A.R. Phillips	1919—1921
James C. Furman	1831—1832	J.K. Hair	1922—1934
Stephen Nixon	1833—	M.M. Benson	1935—1946
Thomas Adams	1838—1839	Coy Muckle	1947—1954
W. Holmes	1839—1841	J. Stuart Hepler	1954—1956
Thomas Adams	1843—	W.P. Hall	1957—1961
Thomas Adams	1850—1853	C.C. Alsbrooks	1961—1964
J.L. Reynolds	1853—1854	George Light	Sept. 1965—June 1979
Thomas Adams	1854—1857	James “J” Thompson	Sept. 1980—Feb. 1994
W.D. Beverly	1857—1862	Michael Gay	Oct. 1994—July 1996
C.A. Stiles	1872—1879	Richard Adams	Sept 1997—Jan. 1999
John Barron	1879—1880	Ryan Pack	Dec. 1999—Sept. 2004
T.W. Mellichamp	1880—1886	Brad Bessent	Aug. 2005—April 2013
A. McA. Pittman	1886—1889	Cameron DeBrew	Feb. 2015—Present
C.A. Stiles	1889—1902		



April 26, 2026

Beulah Baptist Church
9487 Garners Ferry Rd.
Hopkins, SC 29061

Dear Beulah Baptist Church Family,

Congratulations on 220 years of faithfulness to the ministry of the gospel in your community and around the world! April 26, 1806, Beulah Baptist Church was constituted in Hopkins, SC, meeting at the local Minerva Academy. Between John Hopkins's original settlement of the area in 1764 and the completion of the South Carolina Railroad's "Hopkins Turnout" in the mid-1830s, the area began to grow with settlement, mostly by the Hopkins's family. The Hopkins's built several homes in the area which came to be known as "Cabin Branch," or "Old Field," colloquially. Dr. Jonathan Maxcy, a local Baptist minister and the first president of the University of South Carolina, preached the church's inaugural sermon that morning from 1 Peter 2:5—"Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ" (KJV).

As the population grew, Baptists in neighboring communities pitched in to assist the growing congregation which claimed fifty-eight members in 1807. In 1809, Isaac Tucker with Captain John Bostick—a member of Congaree Baptist Church—donated the land for a church building. That same year, Beulah Baptist Church made her first missions gift, \$3.00, through the association's missionary fund. Soon, William B. Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Columbia (who would later become the founding president of the Southern Baptist Convention), led the effort from area churches to raise funds for the Beulah Baptist Church building; it was dedicated on March 11, 1811. From then until now, the church has grown in mission and ministry influence providing opportunities for young preachers; strengthening local Baptist associations and the state and national conventions; sending missionaries; organizing discipleship programs for children and youth; developing various community outreach programs; and persisting through wars, fires, famines, pandemics, and economic depressions.

In 1925, Beulah Baptist Church was quick to participate in the Southern Baptist Convention's new unified missions-funding strategy, the Cooperative Program. From 1925 through 2025, through the Cooperative Program's first 100 years, the church invested \$1,020,073.98 in Southern Baptist mission work in South Carolina and around the world through the Cooperative Program and an additional \$404,443.32 through special offerings.

**each church
every life**

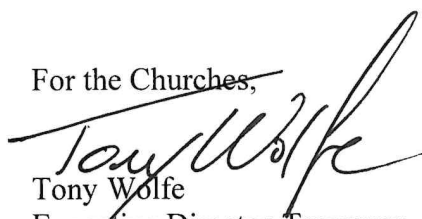
190 Stoneridge Drive, Columbia, SC 29210-8254
o. 803-765-0030 | tf. 800-723-7242 | scbaptist.org

Over the past one-hundred years alone, a total of \$1,424,517.30 has been channeled from the hearts of Beulah Baptist Church members through our Baptist causes to the ends of the earth in order to reach all people everywhere with the truth and love of Jesus Christ.

Since its earliest days, Beulah Baptist Church cooperated with other Baptist churches to reach our state and mobilize missionaries around the world. Truly, it has become “a spiritual house, an holy priesthood,” offering up “spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” Today, April 26, 2026, we celebrate the continuation of the mission, a refueling of the fire, as Beulah’s people gather not only to commemorate God’s faithfulness in the past but to recommit ourselves to the gospel work among us and through us in our present and for the future. Today, ours is the fastest growing state in the union. Local and statewide strategies are critical for evangelistic reach, church revitalization, church planting, human needs ministries, and church leadership education. Nationally and internationally, as the world population grows larger and accessibility increases exponentially, the opportunity for Great Commission impact is unprecedented. As “living stones,” limitless is the possibility for current and future generations of Beulah Baptist Church members to reach their neighborhood and the nations for Christ in cooperation with your sister Baptist churches in our state and nation.

May God be pleased to bring to completion the good work he began at Beulah Baptist Church and in the South Carolina Baptist Convention at large. In anticipation of exponentially more gospel fruit by God’s grace, and in gratitude for your steady and sacrificial Great Commission cooperation through the years, it is my great honor to congratulate you on 220 years of faithfulness to Christ. It is also my great joy to anticipate, with you, a new season of Great Commission effectiveness ahead of us. May God multiply his favor toward you on this special day, and in all the days ahead.

For the Churches,



Tony Wolfe
Executive Director-Treasurer
South Carolina Baptist Convention

**each church
every life**

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o. 803-765-0030 | tf. 800-723-7242 | scbaptist.org



Columbia Metro Baptist Association

806 Universal Dr.
Columbia, SC 29209
columbiametro.org

Dear Brother Cameron & Members of Beulah Baptist Church,

I want to write this letter of congratulations as you all celebrate 220 years of faithful, God-honoring ministry as a church family. Two Hundred and twenty years is a number that a rare, few congregations ever see. Your congregation is such a great example to others of what happens when God's people humbly, and faithfully serve Jesus and are committed to doing His will in your community, state, and all over the world through your partnerships. As I often remind my children on big occasions, keep your eyes solely fixed on doing what God has called you to do, and He will continue to glorify Himself through your congregation. I believe the best is still yet to come!

Congratulations!

Rev. Jamie Rogers
Associational Mission Strategist of the CMBA

Columbia Metro Baptist Association
806 Universal Dr. - Columbia, SC 29209 - columbiametro.org

March 2026

Let me offer congratulations as you celebrate 220 years of service to the Kingdom of God. It is truly remarkable to be a witness of the Gospel to Lower Richland County for that length of time. This nation is only 30 years older than Beulah Baptist Church. Thomas Jefferson was President of the United States when this church was founded. So, it is incredible that God has given grace to this church and that you have maintained a faithfulness through all that has impacted our nation in 220 years.

No doubt there have been highs and lows as in any church, but throughout 220 years this church has been a part of declaring the Gospel from Hopkins to the ends of the earth. I am certainly thankful for the faithfulness you showed to take the Gospel to an unreached people group in West Africa during the time I had the privilege to serve as your pastor. What a blessing to have pastors Cameron and Ken both serve for such a long and faithful tenure.

May God multiply the years of your Kingdom service until the LORD Jesus returns. May you continue to bear Kingdom fruit that remains. May you continue to seek to make disciples who make disciples. Congratulations on reaching such a significant milestone.

In His love,

Brad Bessent



RIVERLAND HILLS

BAPTIST CHURCH

LIVING FAITH | EVERYONE. EVERYWHERE. EVERY DAY.

Dear Beulah Baptist Family,

Congratulations on 220 years of faithful ministry! You are a part of an exciting legacy of God's work in the greater Columbia area, the state of South Carolina, North America and the world. I am humbled that I was able to be a part of the work there from 1999-2004 as your pastor. You will always hold a special place in my heart because Beulah was the first church I pastored. You were gracious to a first-time pastor in his late twenties and so loving toward my growing family.

God has blessed you with a great location and great leadership. It is very unique for a church to have such longevity on a church staff like you have with Cameron DeBrew and Ken Addison. To have ministers serve for decades at the same church is a testimony the way you function as a loving church family.

Also, I celebrate the mission of Beulah Baptist Church beyond the Lower Richland area. Since the SC Baptist Convention started keeping financial records in 1925, you have given a total of \$1,424,517 to Southern Baptist causes. This includes your giving to the Cooperative Program, the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering and the Janie Chapman State Mission offering over the past one hundred years. I can only imagine the countless number of lives that have been impacted with the gospel because of your generosity. As the current President of the SC Baptist Convention, I want to personally thank you for your continued partnership in advancing the gospel together with our SC Baptist family.

You are blessed with a deep-rooted history of gospel impact and a future of unlimited opportunities! You have even greater days of ministry ahead. Keep up the great work and know that I am grateful for you.

Advancing the Gospel Together,

Dr. Ryan Pack

Senior Pastor, Riverland Hills Baptist Church

2026 President of the SC Baptist Convention

PHONE: 803 622 5534
JWTFAM@YAHOO.COM

JAMES W. ("J") THOMPSON, III

110 FUDORA CIRCLE
SIMPSONVILLE, SC 29681

MARCH 24, 2026

DEAR BRO. CAMERON AND BEULAH CHURCH FAMILY,

Congratulations on Beulah's 220th birthday! I am thankful to say that I can remember well the Sunday in September of 1980 when I, along with my wife Donna, arrived to begin serving as your pastor. This exciting spiritual journey would last almost 14 years and make an indelible mark on our lives.

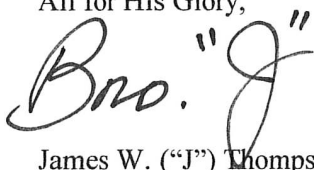
I was 28 years old and freshly graduated from Southwestern Baptist Seminary. The church was welcoming, friendly and above all patient with this young pastor's mistakes! God did a special work in those days - including numerical growth, deepening fellowship and a re-location process. Looking back, I am led to say that God was at work in so many ways in so many lives. There was a deep sense of purpose and worship as the Lord led us forward.

God sent many dear saints to guide us along in those days -- most have gone on to be with Jesus. People like Jesse Reese, John Motley, Sr., Burts Harmon, Dick Hinds, Gene Koon, Milton Caswell, Drayton Brooks, Wade Epps, James Morrell, Ruth Light, Rachel Koon, Flornell Gann, Barbara Jean Epps, Lois Hinds and so many more like them have paved the way for Beulah. I am thankful that we can celebrate a heritage of love, missions and community today.

The Lord is still at work at Beulah. I am grateful for your current staff and church membership. Beulah is a church devoted to Christ, dedicated to its mission and determined to seek God in all things. In many ways, I believe that God's Kingdom work has only just begun for Beulah.

May the Lord bless you richly in the days ahead. Until God takes me home, I plan to be constantly aware of your good progress in the Gospel. It is a joy to celebrate this special day with you!

All for His Glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bro. 'J'" in a cursive, stylized font. The signature is written over the printed name of the sender.

James W. ("J") Thompson, III

Congratulations from our Partners

Camp Cole

campcole.org

"As Beulah celebrates 220 years of impact, we proudly congratulate you on a legacy of love, compassion, and unwavering commitment to others. From the very beginning, Beulah has believed in the mission of Camp Cole. It has been an honor to partner with Beulah Baptist Church where they serve our campers with compassionate faith, selfless service, and community."

—Margaret Deans Fawcett Grantz, Co-Founder

Richland County School District One

richlandone.org

"Congratulations on Beulah's 220 years of faithful service. For generations, you have not only nourished the community spiritually, but you have also met the physical needs of many. We are truly grateful for you and your congregation—for the countless meals shared and prayers lifted on behalf of the students, families, and employees in Richland School District One."

—Dr. Erica R. Hursey, School Board Commissioner

Set Free Alliance

setfreealliance.org

"Congratulations to Beulah Baptist Church on 220 years of faithful ministry and impact for the Kingdom in Hopkins and beyond. We at Set Free are deeply grateful for your partnership in helping reach the world for Christ and look forward to all God will continue to do through you."

—Andrew Hendricks, Program Director

Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries

conniemaxwell.com

"Congratulations Beulah Baptist Church on your 220 remarkable years of faithful ministry and impact on your community. On behalf of Connie Maxwell Children's Ministries, we are deeply grateful for your partnership and for the way you so consistently demonstrate the love of Christ through your heart for missions and caring for others. Your legacy of reaching people and making a difference is truly inspiring, and we celebrate this milestone with you as we look ahead to all God will continue to do through your church."

—Mike Blackwood, Church Engagement

Carolina Baptist Collegiate Ministries

carolinabcm.org

"Congratulations to Beulah Baptist Church on 220 years of gospel-driven ministry! The Carolina BCM is incredibly grateful for your faithful generosity and partnership in reaching students from all over the world with the gospel of Christ. Thank you, and congratulations on this remarkable milestone!"

—Adam Venters, Campus Minister

A Moment of Hope

amoh.org

"Congratulations to Beulah Baptist on 220 years of Christian witness and service! Thank you for upholding the dignity and sanctity of life as you have partnered faithfully these many years. Your sacrificial service to "the least of these" is not unseen by the Lord."

—Mark Baumgartner, Executive Director

Lower Richland Footballlr.richlandone.org

"On behalf of Lower Richland Football, we extend our sincere gratitude for your unwavering service, support, and commitment to our community and our student-athletes. Your legacy of faith, love, and leadership has made a lasting impact on generations. We wish you many more years of continued blessings and service. May God continue to bless you abundantly and cover the entire Beulah Baptist Church family."

—Marlin Taylor, Lower Richland High School Head Football Coach

Horrell Hill Elementary Schoolhorrellhill.richlandone.org

"Happy Anniversary to our Beulah Baptist Church family. Thank you for your partnership and fellowship for nearly two decades, helping us transform the lives of our scholars and supporting all staff."

—Shannon Adams, Principal

Hopkins Elementary Schoolhopkinsel.richlandone.org

"Congratulations to Beulah Baptist Church and Pastor Cameron DeBrew on 220 years of faith, service, and community impact. Thank you for being a faith-based partner of Hopkins Elementary School. We are deeply grateful for this ongoing partnership and the many ways your church has invested in our students, families, and staff. Over the years, Beulah Baptist Church has consistently identified our school's needs and responded with tangible, meaningful support: Copier paper for daily operations and classroom use; Handwritten notes of encouragement to our staff; recognizing their dedication and hard work; A state-of-the-art Teachers' Lounge that provides a welcoming space for collaboration, rest, and renewal; A prayer box where church members commit to praying for Hopkins Elementary, lifting our school in faith and unity. Because of these caring and consistent efforts, Hopkins Elementary has risen from Below Average status to a level that now exceeds the criteria established by the South Carolina Department of Education. We recognize that this growth is a direct result of the sustained partnership with our faith-based neighbors, whose ongoing prayers and practical support help us retain high-quality staff and ensure that the needs of our students are met. With heartfelt appreciation, we honor Beulah Baptist Church, Pastor Cameron DeBrew, and all who stand with us in this mission. May God continue to bless this partnership, our school, and every student who walks through our doors."

—Audrey Garner, Principal

International Mission Board and Child Evangelism Fellowshipimb.org; cefonline.com

"As you celebrate your 220th anniversary, may you be encouraged by all the many ways the Lord has used your church to expand His Kingdom both locally and internationally. You have taken the Gospel to countless places and people, and you have encouraged many missionaries as they serve. This is the Father's heart, and I am so grateful to be one of those whom you have blessed and encouraged. Upon this milestone, I say with the Apostle Paul in Philippians 1:3–6 "I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

—Candie, IMB and CEF Missionary

Share your Memories and Photos

Explore our Online Presence

beulah220.carrd.co



Use your phone's camera to scan the QR code.

- Submit some of your photos and memories during your time at Beulah. We hope to incorporate what is shared in a public document for our 225-year Anniversary in 2031. Please share only photos that best capture your experience.
- View and read others' shared memories
- Explore helpful links, including our website and social media