

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

December 2021



The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke

We begin studying the gospel of Luke. Luke seeks to tell Jesus's followers, you and me, and orderly account of the truth concerning Jesus.

¹Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know

the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed. Luke 1:1-4.

Luke later includes one phrase that changes the understanding of what occurred in Jesus's birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. Luke 2:7.

wrapped him in bands of cloth Mary does not have a soft, cuddly blanket for her baby, she only has scraps of cloth, to piece together to swaddle her baby boy.

laid him in a manger Mary does not have a crocheted, knitted, or embroidered bassinet. Mary borrows a feed trough to place her baby.

because there was no place for them in the inn: These few words adds another dimension to the birth of Christ. The phrase adds another character to the Christmas play. Ultimately, this verse gives hope to the world. Mary and Joseph do not give up. Possibly this "no room" might give them more determinization. Mary and Joseph don't allow a full hotel to keep the coming of Christ to be delayed. Mary and Joseph experience what rejection looked like. Mary and Joseph persisted and found shelter. Jesus is born in the most perfect of humbled space. Most likely this was not the shelter they imagined, but it was shelter. No human assistance for Mary (and Joseph) with the birthing process. It was only God and God's creation who were able to witness the birth of the Christ child. God was with Mary and Joseph as their lives were changing forever.

God's story for creation and humankind continued. God keeps his promises. ²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel." Luke 2: 25-32

This beautiful story about Simeon is read every year the first Sunday after Christmas. Simeon was promised by God that Simeon would not see death until Simeon saw Jesus. This story reveals a reminder of the presence of the Holy Spirit active even before the birth of Christ. This story reminded Simeon that God keeps his word. This story reveals to us today the promises God makes with God's people. God continues God's promises and presence with us, his children.

The promises are real and the story continues...

Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Look to your church calendar for some exciting and fun events to celebrate this wonderful season of Christmas! You all received the list of “December events” and I hope to see you there for worship or fellowship.

Our Cherub tonechimes have become a wonderful addition to the music program! We have placed pictures on the bulletin board across from the coffee area in the office hallway. If you have not seen them, please take a look – they are precious! I am so proud of these little ones. They will continue rehearsing after each service and will play for the children’s Christmas Eve service.

Our children’s activities are continuing Sunday afternoons in preparation for the children’s Christmas Eve service - handbells at 2:30 and puppets at 3:00. On Saturday, December 11, we will have one extra rehearsal for children to include those who have not been able to come on Sundays. That rehearsal will be at 3:00 p.m.

After Christmas I will be offering a service to the children of Mt. Hermon. As a musician, I believe it is very important that the children are given the opportunity to study an instrument at a young age. I will be offering small group piano lessons (2-3 students per class) at no charge to children who attend our church. (Note concerning age – normally the child should be 7 years of age, but some are more mature, so that is a topic for discussion with each family.) I will schedule a meeting for those interested in January and we will discuss the details. There are only two requirements: You must purchase your child’s book and students must practice. (Pretty simple?) I will schedule these classes on various afternoons according to both family schedules and mine. The classes will be 30 minutes each.

For the coming months, I would like to get some feedback from the congregation concerning the music program and what we have been doing. What do you like, what would you like to see, do you have particular hymns/songs you would like sung or played? Feedback is healthy and should be used in a positive manner, so please include your name with your suggestions/information. Please contact me via my personal email ruthiebrannen@gmail.com as I’m still having problems with my church email, and I certainly do not want to miss any communications.

During January, we will break from Sunday afternoon rehearsals for two Sundays, beginning back on January 16. Please mark your calendars.

Please remember during this season to reach out to those who are struggling. Let God touch your life by you touching theirs.

Wishing you the most blessed of Christmas seasons!

Joy in Christ,

Ruthie Brannen

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Congregational Council Minutes October 10, 2021

ATTENDANCE: All were present except Mike Rawl and Jackson Price

CARES AND CONCERNS: Praying for Allison Swygert's mom Sarah Geddings on hospice, Ryan Price, premature twins Henry and Charlie King, David Gosnell, and Pastor Everett Price. Praying for Rebekah Boatwright as she has been approved for ministry.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: Approved with no additions

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: Approved with no corrections

REPORTS:

- Pastor Gina: Written report received. We welcome our new seminarian, Laura Henrickson. Ten new members will join Mt. Hermon soon.
- Treasurer: Written report received for September 2021.
- Financial Secretary: Written report received for September 2021, second quarter 2021, and all of 2021.

Team Reports/Recommendations:

Outreach: Written report received from October meeting. Mt. Hermon was contacted by Wood Elementary asking if we would provide 25 weekend snack backpacks for their students in need. Each weekly backpack would contain at least two breakfasts, two lunches, and two snacks. The team voted to accept this request with the first delivery October 21st. Volunteers and contributions are requested to help facilitate this ministry. The estimated cost for the remainder of this school year is \$3600. The Food Pantry distributed 87 setups in September. The Food Pantry is requesting donations of food and money for holiday meals. The Free Garage Sale will be held December 3rd and coat donations are requested.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Building Renovation & Repair Task Force: The Scout Hut is in the process of being shingled. The Floor Boys are helping us choose a color for our new flooring. The electrical upgrades are being worked on. Shepherd's Glass is coming to give a quote for repair/replace broken windows.
2. Covid concerns: Motion to reopen church for all activities such as Sunday School **APPROVED**
3. Loan refinance: Paperwork signed with Security Federal earlier this week
4. Council vacancy: Sheila Eargle is here tonight replacing Buddy Hydrick after his death

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Stephen Price fund: Motion to give our seminarian Laura Henrickson the scholarship for this semester and next **APPROVED**
2. Snack Pack Fund: Motion to allow Parker to set up an earmarked line item for contributions given for this ministry **APPROVED**
3. 2022 Spending Plan: Motion to accept 2022 Spending Plan presented and approved by Finance Committee to Church Council. **APPROVED**
4. Congregational Meeting: The first Sunday in November the congregation will submit their nominations for church council. A second meeting will be held the following Sunday if a tie needs to be broken. The third Sunday in November will be the annual meeting in the Fellowship Hall after church service concludes.
5. Council votes to nominate for church council: Joel Price Sr., Eric Carroll, Laura Stevens, Jeff Price and youth representative Joshua Koon. If anyone declines, Parker Boulware and Frank Bouknight are tied for next positions.
6. Next meeting November 14th at 6 pm with devotions by Mike Rawl.

Robin Ellisor,
Council Secretary

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Treasurer Report October 2021

	<u>Actual Income</u>	<u>Actual Expenses</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Current & Benevolence	184,677.35	183,717.58	959.77
Building Improvement	23,124.10	16,419.11	6,704.99
Building on Holy Ground	54,171.45	46,321.23	7,850.22



Live Stream Check-ins + In-person = Total

October 31 st	81	+	72	153
November 7 th	68	+	91	159
November 21 st	62	+	94	156
November 28 th	79	+	76	175

December 5th
Baptismal Water
needed from your home.
Bring 2-4 oz. of water from your home.
There will be a glass vessel at the entrance of the
sanctuary for you to add your water.
The water will be combined and used in the
baptismal font
and used to baptize
Gunner Mavrick Donaldson
into the combined community of faith at
Mt Hermon Lutheran Church.

December 14th
Baptismal Water
needed from your home.
Bring 2-4 oz. of water from your home.
There will be a glass vessel at the entrance of the
sanctuary for you to add your water.
The water will be combined and used in the
baptismal font
and used to baptize
Hudson George Allen
into the combined community of faith at
Mt Hermon Lutheran Church.

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

New disciples of Christ who call Mt. Hermon "Home"



Wayne & Charlene Corley



Brandon, Katie, Paisley, & Easton Donaldson

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Watson Martin



Arron, Elyse, Quentin & Walker Kinard
Sharon Keefe

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN



Thank you Mt. Hermon's "men at work"

The Fellowship Hall has new LED lights and stage lights. Thank you Rodney, Blake, Earl, and Jeff – and everyone else who worked and avoided this photo.



One Body



in Christ

so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. Romans 12:05

Beginning January 12, OneBody in Christ

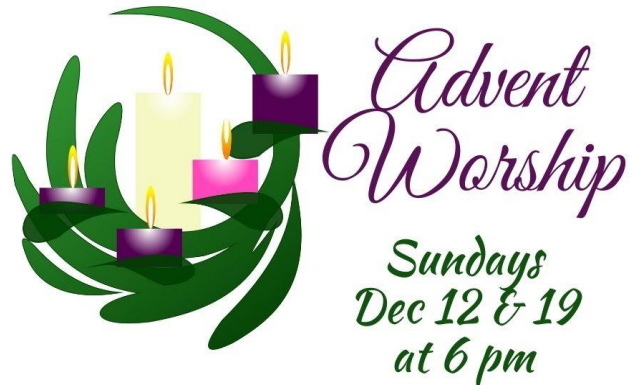
will be held on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the Fellowship Hall. This 30 minute worship service will include Word and Holy Communion.

If someone would like to coordinate food (covered dish meals), please let Pastor Gina

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Coffee, Food & Fellowship

Sunday,
December 5th
immediately following
worship



Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Rd.
West Columbia



Christmas Candlelight Dinner
with
Matthew Dickerson

Saturday,
December 18
6:00 pm



THE DULCIMER GUY
HAMMERED
DULCIMER
ARTIST

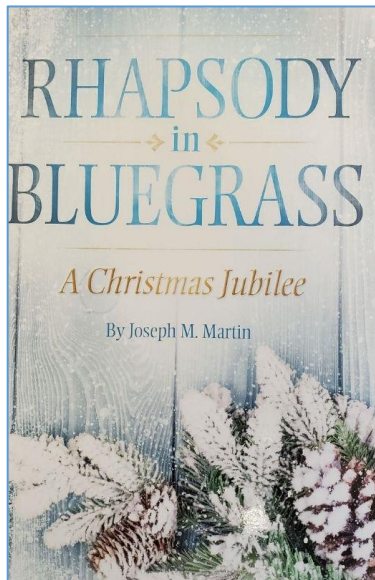


Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Rd., West Columbia

Limited Seating
Registration Required



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN




RHAPSODY
in
BLUEGRASS

A Christmas Jubilee
By Joseph M. Martin

Christmas
Cantata

Sunday, December 5
at 7 pm
in the sanctuary

Mt. Hermon
Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Rd
West Columbia



One Body in Christ
30-minute Worship Service
Catered Christmas Meal
followed by a \$5 gift exchange



Wednesday, December 8 at 12:05 pm
All Are Welcome
Registration sheet in breezeway
or call the office



Smores and Carols
December 22

6:00
at the
Firepit

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Christmas Eve

COME AND WORSHIP
DECEMBER 24

4:00 CHILDREN'S WORSHIP
6:30 PRESERVICE MUSIC
7:00 CANDLELIGHT WORSHIP



Lessons & Carols

COME AND WORSHIP
DECEMBER 26

9:00 WORSHIP



Community Epiphany Service

COME AND WORSHIP
JANUARY 6TH
7:00PM



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Outreach Events

Exercise Classes

For almost 20 years, Dot Mathias has been leading people to become healthier through exercise. She is a certified instructor, and the classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the church Assembly Room. The 2:00 class is the exercise class with exercises that can be done either standing or seated in a chair. The 3:00 class is on Tuesdays only and is a mat class using mainly Pilates. All are welcome to come and participate. Be sure to wear comfortable clothes. If you have questions, give Dot a call. Masks and hand sanitizer are available and there is room for social distancing.



Food pantry - December Needs

During the month of December, we will continue collecting food for Christmas Bags for our Food Pantry patrons. Please donate what you can. Drop your donations in the plastic container in the office foyer. Monetary donations are also appreciated.

Thanksgiving Bags Thank you for the outpouring of food that we received for the Thanksgiving Bags. Through your donations we were able to supply 40 families with Thanksgiving dinner. A special thanks to Bonnie Bouknight, Daryl Leigh Anthony and the Sunday School children for decorating the bags so beautifully.



Angel Tree Ministry - Each year we help children in the community have a brighter Christmas by buying gifts for them. The children are identified by the local schools, and we gather a list of their needs and wants and place them on ornaments. The Angel Tree is up in the Education Building outside of the Church Office. Please make plans to sponsor a child this Christmas. We will also include parents of the children on the tree with some of their needs. We need the wrapped gifts at the church by **Monday, Dec. 13.**

Heart to Home Ministry – Wood Elementary reached out to Mt. Hermon for help with their weekend snack program. This is a program where the identified children in need are provided food for the weekend. We provide 25 bags each week containing child friendly items such as: Mac & Cheese Cups, Cup-a-Soup, Oatmeal, Yogurt Pouches, Cheese Crackers, Cereal, Granola Bars, etc. We try to make sure we are giving them at least two breakfast foods, four lunch/supper foods and two snacks. The bags are delivered to the school to distribute to their students in need. Mt. Hermon has just started participating in this ministry and we are excited to be involved helping God feed His children. We are calling it – **Heart to Home Ministry**- from the heart Mt. Hermon to the homes of children. So far, God has provided funding for this ministry from several sources: members, State Farm, Thrivent Financial and South State Bank. In addition to the funds, we have received so far, First Citizens Mortgage Department sponsored a child-friendly food drive. They donated a carload of child-friendly food. We are excited to be involved in this Outreach ministry and appreciate Melanie Jackson's willingness to coordinate it.

You are Invited to help others this Christmas season. **Ways Your Help is Needed:** Volunteer to help at the Free Garage Sale **Friday, December 3 9:00 am – 1:00pm**
Please let Diane Boulware know if you can help

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

Dec 02

Kelli Mills

Dec 03

Charlene Corley

Ann Addy

Dec 05

Renee Greenbaum

Dec 06

Doris Maddox

Dec 10

Marie Lewis

Dec 11

Jack Allen

Dec 12

Earl Sease

Mitch Stevens

Dec 14

Andrea Bowers

Dec 17

Austin Price

Dec 21

Clifton Addy

Dec 22

Avery Rawl

Dec 23

Trudy Bouknight

Jim Whitaker

Dec 25

Jesus

Dec 27

Eric Carroll

Jeff Price

Dec 28

Dale Miller

Dec 31

Gus Arroyo

Dec 05

Dave & Debra Butts

Dec 09

Jeff & Courtney Bucknam

Dec 10

Eric & Laura Carroll

Dec 13

Wayne & Charlene Corley

Dec 14

Wynne & Mary Price

Dec 17

Carl & Myra Kinard

Dec 19

Neal & Jeannine Taylor

We want to keep our calendar up to date with your special occasions, but we need your help. If your birthday or anniversary is missing, please give us a call or email us at office@wearethermon.com



AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

MT HERMON PRAYS ...

Continual Prayers

Patricia Bachman, *Generations*

Alberta Berry, *home*

Hazel Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Lyle Bockus, *Springdale Home*

Nell Buff, *NHC*

Gennar Kiser, *home*

Rev. Everette Price, *home*

June Roof, *Rapha*

Tom Roof, *home*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Clifton Addy

Angie Hydrick

James Hallman

Frankie Jackson

Jimmy Maddox

Jerry Price III

Jane Sexton

Jean Shealy

Cyndi Thurman

Linda Waters-Hamilton

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Grayson Dykes, *friend of Angie Hydrick*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

David Hydrick, *family of Angie Hydrick*

Charlotte & Paul Nelson, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Richard Lindler, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Robert Lindler, *father of Cassie Swygert*

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*

Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*

Chuck Bachman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgin, *friends of Herb Bucknam*

Tressa Oswalt, *sister of Angie Hydrick*

Don Freeman, *friend of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart*

Jessica Drigger's mother, *friend of Denise Thurman*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Dr. Kay Moore, *friend and co-worker of Cyndi Leaphart*

Thomas McDonald, *son-in-law of Joel and Cindy Price*

Cindy Maples, *mother of Jennifer Miller*

Carter Miller, *great-grandson of Mary and Wynne Price*

Lewis Turner, *friend of Jo Leach*

Sarah Geddings, *mother of Allison Swygert*

Emma Hunt, *grandmother of Laura Carroll*

Beth Ellsworth, *friend of Kenny Bouknight*

Charlie & Henry King, *grandsons of Francis & Joanne Eargle*

David Gosnell, *friend of Allison Swygert*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

Serving in the Community

December 2021

COUNCIL REP: Allison Swygert

ALTAR GUILD: Diane Boulware and Mary Frances Sease

TABULATORS: Diane Boulware and Ann Bouknight

USHERS: *call the church office

<u>Altar Flowers</u>		<u>Greeter</u>	
5	Al and Laura Stevens	5	Mary Price
12	Mary Frances Sease	12	Mary Price
19	Price Family	19	Mary Price
24	Dion & Pastor Gina Metze	24	Mary Price
26	Journey's Class	26	Mary Price
<u>Acolyte</u>		<u>Crucifer</u>	
5	Spencer Price	5	Jackson Price
12	Sam Koon	12	Josh Koon
19	Brayden Morris	19	Lawson Morris
24	Hayden Eargle	24	Conner Eargle
26	n/a	26	n/a
<u>Lector</u>		<u>Communion Assistants</u>	
5	Joel Price, Sr.	5	Joel Price, Sr., Terry Swygert
12	Danny Scott	12	Marion Leaphart, Joel Price, Sr.
19	Devona Price	19	Ronnie Fulmer, Frankie Jackson
24	Sheila Eargle	24	Terry Swygert, Susan Busby
26	Allison Swygert	26	Danny Scott, Jennifer Miller

** If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to cover for you and notify the church office of the change. If you are serving during worship, please arrive no later than 8:30am for sound check or updates to responsibilities during worship.*

AROUND THE MOUNTAIN

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 FH: Free Garage Sale Food Pantry (Diane Boulware, Mary Frances Sease) Meals on Wheels 10:00 am	2 FH: Free Garage Sale 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class choir practice	3 FH: Free Garage Sale 7:30 am Free Garage Sale	4 Advent Cantata Setup (Sanctuary) FH: Free Garage Sale 9:00 am Food Pantry (Koon Family) 3:00 pm Cantata Rehearsal
5 9:00 am Worship (Baptism) 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am CFF: Fellowship Hall 10:30 am Sunday school 7:00 pm Advent Cantata (Sanctuary)	6 10:00 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm Worship and Music	7 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class CR: Michelle Gantt 6:00 pm Executive committee	8 9:00 am Food Pantry (Ann Bouknight, Fran Bouknight) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels 12:00 pm One Body in Christ	9 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Choir Rehearsal	10 Assembly Room: Outreach 9:00 am	11 Assembly Room: Outreach Food Pantry (Terry and Allison Swygert, Laura Carroll)
12 Assembly Room: Outreach FH: candlelight dinner Setup 9:00 am Worship (Baptism) 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Sunday school 4:00 pm Council Meets 6:00 pm Advent worship	13 Assembly Room: Outreach FH: candlelight dinner Setup 10:00 am Staff Meeting 12:00 pm Lunch with Staff 6:30 pm Lutheran Men meeting	14 Assembly Room: Outreach FH: candlelight dinner Setup 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class CR: Michelle Gantt	15 Assembly Room: Outreach FH: candlelight dinner Setup 9:00 am Food Pantry (Frank and Bonnie Bouknight, Andrea Bowers) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels 11:00 am Angel Gift Tree deliveries	16 FH: candlelight dinner Setup 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Choir Rehearsal	17 FH: candlelight dinner Setup	18 FH: candlelight dinner Setup Food Pantry (Mike Rawl and Laura Stevens) 6:00 pm Candlelight Dinner (Christmas)
19 9:00 am Worship (Council install) 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Sunday school 6:00 pm Advent worship	20 10:00 am 6:00 pm Staff Meeting Outreach Team (conf room)	21 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class CR: Michelle Gantt 6:00 pm Handbells Choir 6:30 pm	22 9:00 am Food Pantry (Annette Price, Ann Bouknight, and Sharon Keefe) 6:00 pm Community carols & smores	23 Office Closed 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Choir Rehearsal	24 Office Closed Christmas Eve 4:00 pm 7:00 pm Kid's Service Festival Service	25 Christmas Day
26 9:00 am Lessons and Carols 10:15 am Cherub Tonechimes 10:30 am Sunday school	27 10:00 am Staff Meeting	28 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class CR: Michelle Gantt	29 9:00 am Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick, Fran Bouknight) 10:00 am Meals on Wheels	30 2:00 pm 6:00 pm Exercise class Choir Rehearsal	31 Office Closed New Year's Eve	January 1, 2022 Happy New Year

Please see "calendar of events" at WeAreMtHermon .com for updates.



Mt Hermon Lutheran Church
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC. 29169

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COLUMBIA, SC

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* 803.951.3784
Ruthie Brannen, *Director of Music*
Ashley Masters, *Parish Administrator* 803.794.6430
Laura Henrickson, *Seminarian*

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com
Ruthie@WeAreMtHermon.com
Office@WeAreMtHermon.com
Laura.Henrickson@my.lr.edu

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Ronnie Fulmer, *President*
Robin Ellisor, *Secretary*
Annette Price, *Financial Secretary*

Marion Leaphart, *Vice President*
Parker Boulware, *Treasurer*
Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, *Sextons*

www.WeAreMtHermon.com
3011 Leaphart Road
West Columbia, SC 29169
803.794.6430
Monday - Thursday
9:00 am – 1:00 pm

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