

From Presbyterian Church records

The land on which Beulah Chapel was built was conveyed to the Trustees of the Charles Town Presbyterian Church in 1874. According to the terms of the deed, Presbyterians were to have use of the property half of the time; the other half of the time the property was to be made available to other denominations.⁴⁰ For reasons that are unclear today, this proviso was not honored. In 1888, the Session rejected the request of Reverend B. F. Bausman of a German Reform Church to utilize the chapel.⁴¹

Beulah Chapel was dedicated in the fall of 1874 after \$1,100 had been spent on its construction. Thirty-five scholars were reported at the Beulah Sunday School "and about one-half Presbyterian influence."⁴² The leadership at Beulah Chapel seems to have been provided by Henry Rohrer, Adam Brennerman, Henry Crittenden and Silas Feagan.⁴³

Colportage is a concept lost to the 20th century Presbyterian, but to a member of Charles Town Presbyterian Church in the 19th century the term would have been familiar and commonplace. The term refers to the distribution of Bibles and tracts. During the Civil War, Reverend Nathaniel G. North, a teacher in Charles Town, served the Synod as a colporteur. After the War, Reverend North served with J. Harry Moore, William Creighton Campbell, John A. Scott, Jr. and John S. Lefevre as colporteurs.⁴⁴ The delivery of tracts and Bibles was a special calling in the last century and Reverend North was a well known and respected colporteur.

During this period, the average minister's salary in Presbyterian churches located outside major cities throughout the south was \$716 per annum. The highest salaries reported in Winchester Presbytery were \$1,000 per annum paid to Reverend A. C. Hopkins of Charles Town and to Reverend David H. Riddle at Martinsburg Presbyterian Church.⁴⁵ Hopkins' salary was paid by his congregation from the rental of pews. In 1873, the congregation adopted the "envelope plan", with a particular week's envelope plan collection being designated for a particular benevolence or current expense.⁴⁶ The pew rental system was abolished by the congregation at a meeting in April 1898, when the "free-pew" system was adopted.⁴⁷