

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church
601 Madison Avenue
Kinston, NC 28501

Non-Profit
Organization
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Kinston, NC
Permit #221

THE TIE

Connecting you with the body of Christ at
Spilman Memorial Baptist Church

APRIL 2020



Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr., Interim Pastor
Clay Whittington, Director of Music and Organist
Pam Taylor, Pianist
Karensa Marques, Administrative Assistant

Michelle Sutton, Finance Assistant
Michael and Vance Aldridge, Custodians
Jerry Crisp, Security
Carineta Bruinton, Nursery

CHURCH STAFF

Eight Tips for Staying Healthy – by Donna Keith

1. STAY HOME. Do not go out unless you absolutely need to.
2. Wash your hands and clean all surfaces (Including Your phone).
3. Stay 6 feet away from others if you must go out.
4. If you have symptoms, fever, cough, shortness of breath- call your Doctor or call the hospital. Do NOT wait until you cannot breathe. Doctor's offices are following these guidelines as well as the hospital. If you are immunocompromised, please stay in touch with your physician.
5. Get outside in your own yard, talk to neighbors from a distance. Your mental wellness is important too. I know, I have not seen my family since March 1st and I miss them a lot. My socialization is at work but many of you miss your church family, your clubs, your workouts and your lunches. It is okay and we will get back to it.
6. Limit touching your face and then touching surfaces. Cough into your elbow area.
7. Remember if you wear gloves to the grocery store and then touch your face, you are defeating the purpose of the gloves. Use the wipes or hand sanitizer but when you can use soap and water! Better yet, ask your younger, healthier neighbors to shop for you. They can drop it off on your porch.
8. Call someone if you are feeling too overwhelmed. Your mental health is also very important. As a doctor said to me this week "PRAY." This has been a time I have seen more doctors, nurses and healthcare personnel pray with their patients and each other. Even though the staff are from different countries, ethnic backgrounds and religions, we still pray.

Stay safe! This will make us better!!

Dear Church Family,

Like most of you, I never thought we would be where we are today as a congregation, city, state, nation, or world. Our whole world has been turned upside down with the arrival of the coronavirus. Our normal routines of meeting with family and friends, seeing our favorite sports teams, eating in various restaurants, exercising at the gym, attending church, or simply going where we want to go when we want to go has now changed.

There is a freedom loving side of myself that says, "Who is the government to tell me what to do?" "They have no right to stop the assembly of people." At least that's the way I read the constitution! Yet none of us wants this virus to spread like wildfire across our nation, so we agree to abide by the government's suggestion (now mandate) to not meet and maintain a safe distance from one another. Our church responded at the end of our March 15th worship service to take the next two Sunday's off to see how this virus is progressing.

During the last two weeks, I have mailed a Private Worship Program along with my sermon for every regularly attending member to have for Sunday Mornings. I wanted every person to have this because many in our church do not have email or Facebook. For those that have Facebook, Clay has stayed at his home in Greenville and livestreamed the worship music. Over the coming weeks we may come up with new, creative ways to communicate with our congregation.

During the last two weeks, President Trump (along with many others) have given daily updates on the virus. Governor Cooper has closed all NC schools until May 15th. Most colleges have sent their students home for the semester. There is now a mandated 30 day **Statewide Stay at Home** order for all non-essential workers which began on March 30th.

On Friday, various leaders of our church began the discussion of what should we do now? The chairpersons of Personnel, Deacons, Finance, Building and Grounds, and Trustees have agreed Spilman needs to suspend all worship services and activities through the month of April.

I have asked several people to write an article for the TIE to explain more about how Spilman is responding to this virus and what our members should be doing during this time.

None of the staff will maintain regular office hours at the church. I will be in and out of the office to check the mail, return any phone messages, and print out any publications that come from the church. Over the next few weeks, I will continue to try and figure out how to best communicate with our leaders and members. If you have not already done so, please update your profile on Realm to help us have your current information. These email invitations were sent out last week for the members that have shared their email addresses with us.

As always, feel free to contact me. I may not be able to come and see you personally, but I can always pray with you over the phone. Let me please reiterate, if you want to speak with me, don't hesitate to call me! **(919) 273-5358**

Let us pray this time away (The Diaspora—The Scattering) will draw us closer to the Lord. When we do come together again, what a day of rejoicing that will be! I am praying for each one of you during this time!

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.



DR. H. POWELL DEW, JR.

Kay A. Blizzard

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March 28, 2020

Updates from the Personnel Committee....

Spring has officially arrived, and with it this year, came COVID-19. Along with the arrival of this pandemic that has affected each of us, we have also become more aware of the implications for monitoring the health and safety of our employees at Spilman.

While practicing social distancing, members of our Personnel Committee have talked via phone, email, text, and snail-mail to ensure that our employees are following the safety guidelines set by our government and healthcare officials, understand their current employment status, and know that they should reach out to Dr. Dew or to any member of the Personnel Committee if they have concerns during this time. It is our intention to continue to pay our employees through the month of April as normal; however, it is imperative that our church members remember to give financially during this crucial time while our church will not be meeting.

As you may know, **Pam Taylor** has submitted her resignation, effective April 26, 2020, and will be returning to her home church as pianist. She will certainly be missed at Spilman, and we greatly appreciate her sharing her musical talents with us for the past three years.

The Personnel Committee has determined that due to lack of children present at Spilman, the services of our nursery worker, **Carineta Bruinton**, are no longer needed. Also, Carineta is now working at Caswell Center and has been called in to work on several Sundays. We hope that our weekly volunteers will continue to fill in as needed on the Sundays that a child might be present for church.

We extend invitations to both Pam and Carineta to return to Spilman to visit with us whenever they can; they will be missed!

Most of the other employees at Spilman will *not* be at the church on a regular daily schedule and have been notified of these changes in accordance with the most recent directive of Governor Roy Cooper which will remain in effect through April 30, 2020.

We ask that you *do not visit the church* during this time; however, if you need to get in contact with an employee, please do so by phone or email. We are trying to keep all staff and church members as SAFE and HEALTHY as possible and appreciate your understanding and assistance with this directive.

Sincerely,

Kay A. Blizzard

Chairperson, Personnel Committee

Update from the Danny Rice

The deacons have been encouraged to stay in periodic contact with their assigned families through the Family Ministry Program. Please keep your Deacon or Pastor Dew aware of any family needs and prayer requests.

Update from the Finance Committee....

The church still needs your financial support even while it is temporarily closed. The church still has bills to be paid such as salaries, utilities, telephone, and others,. The finance committee is requesting you mail your offerings to the church to the attention of Sylvia Williams.

Update from Donna Keith

As most of you are aware, I work at UNC Lenoir Hospital (LMH). I work on the same floor that is designated to take care of COVID-19 patients. That section is isolated and closed off to the area where I work, so I do not enter that area. Because I am of a critical age, this is one time I don't mind age discrimination.

As of March 29, 2020, we do not have any known positive cases in the hospital. We do have several we have tested but it is taking approximately 5-7 days to get results. We are not testing many because of shortage of testing kits. This shortage is not just our hospital, so it is not anyone's fault. The demand for the tests far exceeds the supply. We as Healthcare workers need to treat everyone as if they have the virus or could have the virus. We do masks if the patient has respiratory problems like cough. We must reuse regular surgical masks because of current shortage. If patient goes into our Covid-19 unit, we try to use the same personnel and the utilize the N-95 masks so they can be safe. The hospital has cut out non-essential personnel at the hospital.

If you have family in hospital, you cannot visit so don't come to hospital unless YOU medically need to. I know this is very difficult not being with your family, but it is necessary we take these steps to protect our other patients and staff. You can take comfort knowing, we treat your family like our family. They are not alone.

Update from Clay Whittington

With all that is going on in the world right now, watching the news and the constant updates from the medical community and our government certainly don't paint a happy picture for the near future. As a musician and a student, it seems my entire life and living have been moved to online platforms. It has certainly been uplifting to see some of my favorite musicians and production companies offer live-streaming performances. My favorite singer/songwriter, Ben Folds, is offering an all-request performance from his Sydney apartment four times a week, while the Metropolitan Opera is offering many of their performances online for FREE.

While worship services at Spilman have been suspended, Dr. Dew is offering a bulletin for private worship which includes all parts of the service, including hymn selections and lyrics. Through the Spilman Facebook page and Facebook Live, I have been and will continue to lead these hymns and offer a few other musical selections during our regularly schedule worship time. All you will need to participate is the bulletin from Dr. Dew. In the event you don't receive one, you can go to www.spilmanbaptist.org/privateworship to find the bulletin and Dr. Dew's sermon. If you do not have a Facebook account or wish to view the video later in the week, I will post the recorded videos on this page on Sunday afternoon.



2020 BIRTHDAYS

- 2 BETH CRISP
- 2 RAMONA G. HARPER
- 4 HAZEL THOMAS
- 6 DANNY RICE
- 8 B.C. CARLYLE
- 11 EDNA COLE
- 22 RICK ARTHUR
- 22 VIRGIL BYRD, JR.
- 24 VICKY GADDIS
- 30 LARRY WILLIAMS

Introducing



Before this pandemic, I had never heard of, or even tried the program called Zoom. This is a software that allows up to 100 people gather together in a virtual room and be able to see and talk with one another. I believe this could be a revolutionary way in which we can stay in touch.

When you have time, download the free version of this software and send me (Dr. Dew) a message that you are Zoom ready! We may make this our weekly platform for Bible Study, or Sunday School. Hope to see you virtually soon! <https://zoom.us/>



**Johnnee Rice
Deacon of the Month**

Johnnee Rice, a native of Hamlet, North Carolina, came to Spilman as a college freshman in 1972 to serve as organist. She has continued playing the organ as well as directed adult, youth, and children's choirs, and accompanied all these programs over the years. She has been a part of the Spilman handbell ringers and the Delta group since the beginning of these ministries. Johnnee retired as a Woodington Middle School music teacher after twenty years. She and her husband, Danny, have been actively involved at Spilman over the past four decades, raising their two sons, Jonathan and Carson (now of Burbank, CA), as part of the Spilman family.