

Spilman Memorial Baptist Church
601 Madison Avenue
Kinston, NC 28501

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Kinston, NC
Permit #221

THE TIE

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

JUNE 2020

CHURCH STAFF

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr., Interim Pastor
Clay Whittington, Director of Music and Organist
Michael and Vance Aldridge, Custodians
Michelle Sutton, Finance Assistant
Jerry Crisp, Security



Miscellaneous Thoughts from Donna Keith

- I will tell you there is an increase (not decrease) in coronavirus cases in Kinston.
- I would suggest it be a slow transition just as Spilman has done.
- The congregation should space themselves apart in sanctuary since we have plenty of room.
- We should consider limiting congregational singing since spray droplets go further with singing.
- If a member has underlying illness then they may want to wear a mask.
- Keep in mind, my mask protects you and your mask protects me. I still wear mine in public.
- Because I am a nurse and around sick patients, I may take a little longer to come around the church members.
- The increase in coronavirus patients has not been from a specific age group. We have seen all ages.
- I want to encourage you to still be smart.
 - * Wash your hands. Wear a mask when in crowds.
 - * Cough into your shoulder or elbow.
 - * Think of yourself and others.
 - * Hand sanitizers should be at all doors.
 - * Avoid shaking hands!
 - * It is fine to give a smile and a nod or elbow bump.
- **Most importantly: Do not go to church if you have a cough, shortness of breath, muscle aches or fever!**
- I would suggest a thorough cleaning before and after service.
- For right now communion should be avoided or at least think of alternative ways.
- You don't want everyone to touch the communion plate and pass it on. You really want to reduce contact.
- Hopefully by implementing these strategies, we will start seeing a reduction in the coronavirus soon.
- My suggestions are not politically biased, but based on what I see medically.
- I feel safe at the hospital as we all practice this way.
- It really makes a difference when everyone "thinks" about others as well as themselves!
- Just take it slow and it will be okay.
- The choir may have to wait awhile before starting back!!!!

Facing Fear with Faith

Over the past three nights, I have been watching a new mini-series on the History Chanel about Ulysses S. Grant. I have become more interested in this period of history since discovering a few years ago my South Carolina ancestor, Frederick C. Dew, was injured at the Battle of the Crater in Petersburg, Virginia.

From this mini-series, I learned a great deal about a man that came from a humble background, made many mistakes, endured failure, yet succeeded in bringing about an end to the Civil War by defeating General Lee's army. After the war, General Grant went on to become our 18th President, served two terms, and guided the United States America to the goal of a united nation, providing justice and equality for ALL people.



DR. H. POWELL DEW, JR.

The mini-series demonstrated vividly his determination, endurance, persistence, sacrifice, and the brutality of war. Soldiers marched for days to position themselves in the right place to face their enemy. They endured hardship, hunger, illness, loneliness, bitter cold and extreme heat. They sacrificed their arms and legs, their security and safety, and for over 650,000 individuals, their lives. They fought with their cannons, guns, bayonets, pistols, knives, and their bare hands. The carnage was awful. The number of soldiers that died was staggering. Each side, was totally dedicated to their cause, right up to General Lee's surrender at Appomattox, Virginia.

There was one particular scene at Cold Harbor that stood out to me as worth sharing with you today. General Grant's army headed right into the heart of General Lee's territory. They had both fought with great determination in the Wilderness Campaign where thousands of soldiers were killed. General Grant insisted his army pursue the "Old Gray Fox" to end this war.

As Grant's army headed to Cold Harbor, they were well aware that this may be the day they die. Some even penned a note inside their jacket which said, "Today I died at Cold Harbor." Instead of turning back in fear, they marched forward in spite of the danger.

Many people have come to understand that when fear rears its ugly head, it can only be met with faith and trust in God. We need to embrace the truth that God is sovereign over everything and everyone in His creation. David gives us a model prayer to help us obtain this confidence in God. Psalm 31:14-15 says, "But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me."

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

Our time is in God's sovereign hand. Even though we may face illness, famine, war, or a pandemic like we are experiencing now, we are in God's hands. When we lose sight of this truth, fear will grip us and our faith in God will diminish. We may think we are in charge, but we are not. We may think we can prevent illness, famine or a pandemic from touching us, but we cannot. God is in control. He knows the beginning and the end of all our situations.

I want to encourage you to take some time this week to read Psalm 139 to give you the assurance you may need during our uncertain days. May you allow this prayer to become your prayer today:

"Lord, we live in a world gripped by fear. Fear of catching the coronavirus. Fear of the police. Fear of not having enough resources to take care of our family. Fear of death. At times, I have allowed that same fear grip my heart."

"Lord, help me move from 'Fear' to 'Faith.' Help me realize you love me and you know everything about me and my circumstances. You even know the number of my days (Job 14:5). Help me to trust You even when I do not understand everything going on around me. Help me to live my life by faith in You, not guided by the fear that seeks to destroy me."

"Lord, instill in me a thirst for your Holy Words. I know the words of life are contained in the Bible. As I meditate on Your scripture, help those words guide my life to have an awareness of Your protective, guiding hand. Help me have a clearer sense that You have everything under control. May the words of Jesus to the fearful disciples on the Sea of Galilee resonate within me. "Peace, be still." Speak Your peace into my heart today. Amen."

Update from the Finance Committee....

April's Financial Report

In April we gave \$24,320 to the church's general offering. We had an additional \$4,388.15 added to the general offering from a sales tax refund and rental income. The total income for April was \$28,708.15. The church's expenses for April were \$15,305.47, leaving the church with a net of \$13,402.68 for the month.

Year-to-date we have given \$78,404 to the general offering. Total income year-to-date is \$86,197.15. Expenses year-to-date have been \$71,903.63, leaving the church with a net of \$14,293.52.

We need to give \$22,462.58 a month to meet our church budget. Year-to-date, we have given \$78,404 versus our year-to-date budget of \$89,850.32 leaving us \$11,446 under budget.

The finance committee thanks the church members for generously supporting the church financially.



- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 2 Libby Mitchell | 15 Mark I. Conway |
| 3 Bunn Bennett | 15 Bonnie Gaddis |
| 4 Bill Jones | 15 Donna M. Keith |
| 8 Larry McMillin | 24 Debra Carlyle |
| 10 Mark R. Conway | 26 Dot Moore |
| 10 Jerry Crisp | 28 Effie Smith |
| 11 Barbara Aman | 30 Betty Potter |
| 12 Elizabeth Hartford | |

Update from Danny Rice, Diaconate Chair

Dear Spilman family,

On behalf of the Diaconate, I hope you are doing well and know that there is a light at the end of this quarantine tunnel. It is our goal to start getting back to our new "normal" as soon as possible but our continued efforts will be to insure the health and safety of our members.

Guidelines for worship services are becoming clearer and it appears that we are closer than we have been to getting back to having more options for worship. The Church Leadership Team, comprised of our pastor, choir director, and committee chairs, have begun meeting to develop a plan for an appropriate transition to a suitable schedule. It will not be the schedule to which we are accustomed, but will allow for social distancing and safe conditions in our sanctuary and throughout our facility. We have begun with Sunday morning worship for those who are comfortable attending in the sanctuary.

Many thanks to Pastor Dew and Clay for keeping us connected with their contacts, worship materials, and special music live on Sunday mornings and on Facebook. Thanks to our Deacons for staying in touch with our families and please let them or Pastor Dew know of any ministry needs.

These challenging times have brought to light vividly how crucial our church family is to us. Let's continue to pray for our church and look forward to when we can again be together.

God be with you until we meet again.

Update from The Church Leadership Team

The church will continue with weekly mailings and Facebook Live on Sunday morning at 10:30.

The sanctuary will be open on Sunday mornings for those individuals that feel comfortable coming back to church.

Please enter the sanctuary on Sunday morning through the Madison Ave. entrance. The rest of the buildings and doors will be locked and off limits to members.

We will continue to offer masks, hand sanitizer, and bulletins for those attending

We do request those attending to sit at least six feet from each other and continue to practice social distancing guidelines while at church.

Offering will be collected as people enter or exit the building. We will not be passing the plate.

Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews. Please use the worship bulletin for the music and scripture readings.

The sanctuary will be cleaned each week before the Sunday morning worship service.

It may take some more time before we can resume Sunday school, Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible Study.

No timetable has been set for resuming the choir.



Deacon of the Month — Larry Williams



Larry is married to Sylvia Williams and has one daughter Lynn, and a son, Stanley, and a daughter in-law, Betsy.

He has been at Spilman since 1963. Currently, he is involved with Spilman in many ways. He serves as a Deacon; a teacher of the Travis Class and the Chairman of the Finance Committee.